

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

August 1998

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ILLINOIS
SHOWS ITS COLORS
PAGE 10

As Bad As It Gets

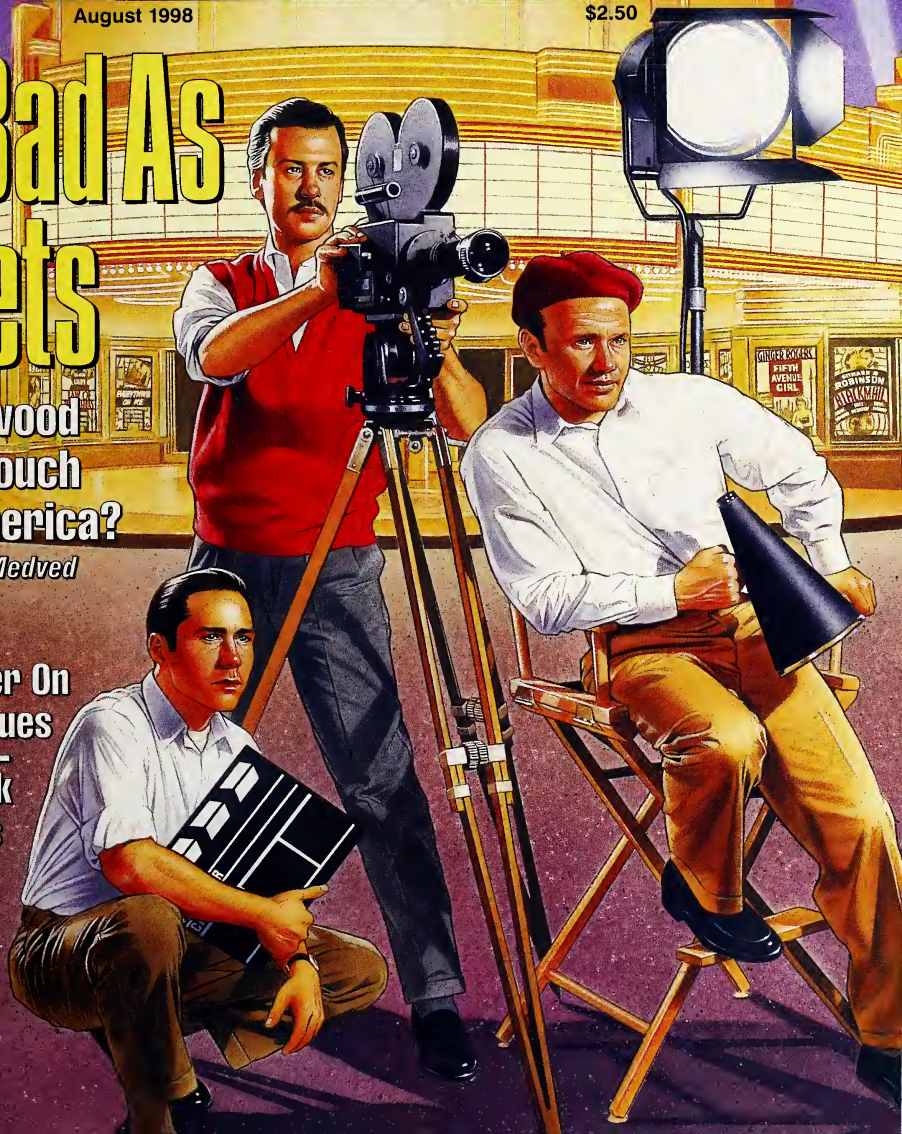
Is Hollywood
Out Of Touch
With America?

By Michael Medved

PLUS

Gary Bauer On
Family Values

Boardwalk
Memories



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THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 145, No. 2

The Magazine for a Strong America

August 1998

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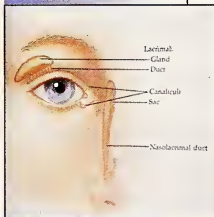
COVER *Hollywood's Agenda*/Eric J.W. Lee, Lott Representatives



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THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.

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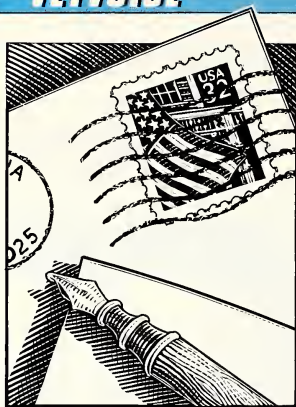
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Warring Factions

I HAD the privilege of working for DEA Administrator Thomas Constantine "The War We're Not Fighting," (June) during his tenure as superintendent of the New York State Police. I found him to be the most outstanding individual I have ever known. His reasoning and philosophy is as sound now as it was 10 years ago.

*Wells M. Farr
Central Bridge, N.Y.*

THOMAS Constantine would like us to believe that we have never fought a war on drugs. Let me give an example that shows he is wrong:

July 16, 1993—A Colorado woman was hospitalized after eight DEA agents beat her to the ground before realizing they were at the wrong house.

I believe the government is indeed waging a war, and the casualties are not always the bad guys.

*Terry Petersen
Chandler, Ariz.*

I AM still trying to figure out Gurney Williams' cover story "Pipeline of Poison," (June). I was appalled at Dr. Jill Jonnes' estimate that the decriminalization of hard drugs would spawn 20 million new addicts. Only a small part of the drug problem is demand driven; the largest part of the problem is supply driven.

Few Americans are waiting to turn themselves into brain-dead vegetables. Drug dealers are always looking for

new customers. Once those new customers are hooked, many become dealers to support their habits. And so the problem grows and grows.

*Paul R. Hollrah
Locust Grove, Okla.*

THANKS for your excellent articles on attacking drugs. Constantine calls it "the war we're not fighting." He doesn't, however, give specific answers to the problem except to "enforce the nation's controlled-substance laws, protect Americans and put drug traffickers in the slammer."

We send our troops all over the world to defend other countries' borders. Why not use them to defend ours? I hope The American Legion will support the use of our troops. Perhaps we should consider a resolution at the New Orleans Convention.

*Richard Fenzel
Louisville, Ky.*

GERALD Solomon of New York is mistaken in "Big Issues," (June). If marijuana should not be used medicinally, then, by his logic, morphine should be banned because it is an opium derivative. I wonder how many vets who have ever had stomach wounds would agree with banning morphine?

*Alan A. Reisinger
Socorro, N.M.*

Remembrances

WHILE trying to make funeral arrangements for my husband, I was told he could have the bronze marker only if it was to be the sole marker on the grave. We had always planned on being buried side-by-side with a double marker. I was sorry to find out that the marker is not awarded if the veteran has any other marker on his grave. I hope this rule will be changed.

*Bernadine Robbins
Moundsville, W.Va.*

THE decision to open the Tomb of the Vietnam Unknown Serviceman for DNA testing will fulfill the nation's commitment to provide a full accounting for MIAs. The same testing should be afforded to the Korean War unknowns buried in the Punch Bowl National Cemetery in Hawaii so those heroes can be returned to their families.

*Alfred W. Evans
San Antonio, Texas*

AS a director of a county veterans' office, I get irritated every time I have a widow sign a marker form that states: "On the veteran's unmarked grave..." To deny a veteran the only symbol of service to his country because it already has a headstone

CHRISTMAS AT WAR

FOR the December issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, we'd like to run recollections of wartime veterans—with related photos—of the most significant Christmas they spent in uniform.

If you have a compelling Christmas memory from the war years, plus a related photo, and would like to share them with The American Legion family, please focus your account to less than 300 words. Forward your Yule recollection and the photo or a copy of it for our consideration; all photos will be returned. Veterans whose Christmas memories and photos are selected for publication will be paid \$50. Submissions

without photos cannot be considered.

Only submissions postmarked on or before Oct. 1 will be eligible, and all will be subject to normal editing for style and content. THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE will publish as many Christmas memories of the war years as space and design considerations allow. Writers should make sure addresses and telephone numbers are attached to both article and photo. Submissions should be sent to:

**Christmas at War
THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE
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is simply a tragedy.

What if the wife dies before the veteran? Does the funeral home advise that veteran not to put his name on it because he will then not be able to get a bronze marker? I will not be the one to tell the widow that her husband is not eligible for a marker because the plot already has a headstone with his name on it. This rule should be changed so all honorably discharged veterans could have bronze markers put on their graves.

Steve Hudson, Director, Office of Veterans' Affairs, Dickinson County Iron Mountain, Mich.

Dollar Daze

FOR the sake of the almighty dollar, Americans have turned Memorial Day into one big money gathering spree. For the sake of having three-day sales and a day off work, Americans have defiled those heroes whose efforts preserved those freedoms we all share. To dishonor all those who sacrificed their lives in an effrontery of enormous proportion.

Also, Veterans Day is not for sale. I intend to confront any business that dares to advertise "Big Veterans Day Sale."

*Thomas Mastell
Saugerties, N.Y.*

Warrior's Song

I THINK "In a Warrior's Steps" (June) was long overdue. Native American veterans have fought with pride in every war this country was ever in. The article brought back memories of Marine Capt. Gerald H. Sampson. He was awarded the Navy Cross while helping his Marines in Northern I Corps. He was a great Cherokee warrior.

*Raymond L. Page
Emlenton, Pa.*

Showing Colors

I AM pleased the flag amendment is progressing to the point where we will be permitted to vote on it. When I think about the flag and painting the town red, white and blue, I am reminded of former Army Spec. Michael New, who refused to cover U.S. insignias with U.N. insignias. I

believe he was defending the sovereignty of the United States by disobeying an order that might not have been legal.

*Robert H. Michael
Kinderhook, N.Y.*

Keep 'Em Flying

I KEEP hearing "fly your colors from Memorial Day to Labor Day." Why not fly your colors every day? I am proud to say my colors have flown every day since 1965, with the exception of a few very windy days.

*William H. Wise
Van Wert, Ohio*

Not Alone

I WOULD like to correct the implication that Harley-Davidson is the only motorcycle made in America. Although it was true for a very long time, it is not true today.

American Honda, of Marysville, Ohio, has been producing and, indeed, exporting, motorcycles at its American facility for many years. Polaris introduced its American-made cruiser motorcycle, the Victory, last year.

Also, Excelsior Henderson, a publicly held company as well, is scheduled to re-introduce that old-time brand this year. Those of course do

not include the myriad American-made "Harley clones" that have been marketed in the last three to five years such as Titan, California Motorcycle, Big Dog and American Quantum.

*Rick Campbell, publisher
Motorcycle Industry Magazine
Gardnerville, Nev.*

Hawg Wild

THIS article is one of the many that attempt to find the mystique of the Harley-Davidson. I think it comes as close to the target as any I have read so far. I think the motorcycle has made a great comeback since the AMF [American Machine Foundry] days.

It is interesting how the 40-somethings have taken this bike to their bosoms. On Saturdays, I see them riding their shining Fat Boys and Road Kings while wearing \$900 worth of Harley-brand gear. Still, if they have the guts to get out there on the open road for a while, we as the motorcycle public will be better for it.

*Ollie Bingaman
Manteca, Calif.*

Calm Commute

TRENT McNeeley's article on road rage "How's My Driving?" (May) really bit me on the nose. Without road rage, I am a changed man. Last year I commuted 11 miles each way. Now I travel just over a mile, a pleasant walk in good weather. My job productivity has gone from "near worst" to "near best."

*Ed Jones, Jr.
Metuchen, N.J.*

Thank You

I'D like you to know how much I was impressed with, and appreciated May's "In Grateful Memory of all Who Served." Thank you.

*Virginia Kuch
St. Petersburg, Fla. □*

Correction

THE article in the June "Veterans Update" about the amendment to Senate Concurrent Resolution 86 contained an error in the vote count. The correct count is 52-46. We apologize for the error.

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE welcomes letters concerning articles that appear in the publication. Be sure to include your hometown and a daytime phone number for verification. All letters are subject to editing. Send your opinions to:

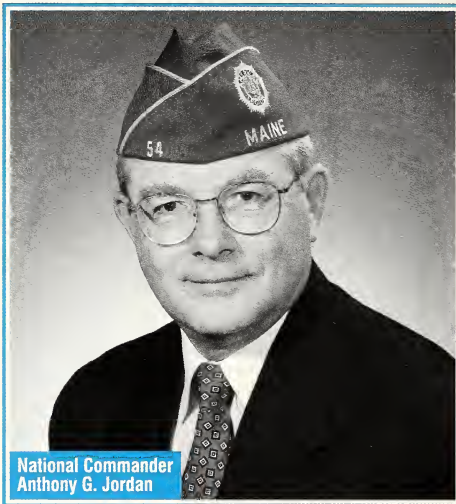
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excitement,
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change in
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National Commander
Anthony G. Jordan

DOM Bock and Pat Smith are Colorado's Department National Executive Committeeman and Adjutant, respectively. When I visited their state, they put me up to something that illustrated my often-repeated urgings on behalf of fun and change in The American Legion.

My wife, Claudette, and I and several Colorado Legionnaires went up to Cripple Creek and Karma, two old Colorado mining towns. They are enjoying resurgence in tourism as many of their boom-town era buildings are restored.

Two of those now house modern casinos, and at one, The Virgin Mule, we participated in the reactivation of American Legion Post 171, of near-by Victor. Jack Maberry, owner of the casino, is junior vice commander of the Post, and he will be its host until the Post can secure a permanent home.

In my remarks, I encouraged Post 171 to aid veterans, serve God and country and have fun, but I suspect members had these initiatives running long before the installation. Cripple Creek's end-of-summer "Salute to American Veterans Rally & Festival" included a Legion-

naires' motorcycle ride from Divide, Colo., a motorcycle rodeo, patriotic ceremony, parade, aircraft fly-overs and entertainment. Post 171 also plans to add a remembrance wall and a fountain to Cripple Creek's City Park.

We enjoyed the wonderful Legion camaraderie for as long as possible before heading back to our base at Security, Colo. On the outskirts of that town, our vehicle was halted by a mass of bikers—40, it turned out—stationed around a few police vehicles, lights flashing. It was my introduction to the color guard of the "American Legion Riders," a program of the Department of Colorado.

The bikers put me on one motorcycle, Claudette on another, and, escorted by police, we roared through Security to American Legion Post 38. (The Post, its Unit and its S.A.L. Squadron all boast of having attained their 100 percent membership goal for this

year.) There I had the chance to tell the Riders they obviously represented change: 10 years ago, the police would have been chasing them, not escorting them!

The Riders are motorcycle enthusiasts within Colorado Posts, S.A.L. Squadrons and Auxiliary Units. Only active members of an American Legion family organization are eligible. A wannabe must have a motorcycle (Riders call them "scooters") with an engine of 500cc or better. That rule would probably be self-enforcing, given the steep Colorado terrain.

The Riders have two main concerns: POW/MIA issues and that every child in their District is remembered at Christmas. A typical Rider project, celebrated with a "run" to the scene, would be a memorial honoring America's missing servicemen with an adjacent display of the U.S. and POW/MIA flags.

The Riders, Bock says, raise a lot of money for their work, mostly from among themselves. Keeping the memory of missing comrades fresh and keeping faith with kids who are convinced that Santa wears leathers isn't cheap or easy, but it's worthwhile.

And when you head out on a run in a snarl of scooters, it's just plain fun.





6:30AM



6:30PM

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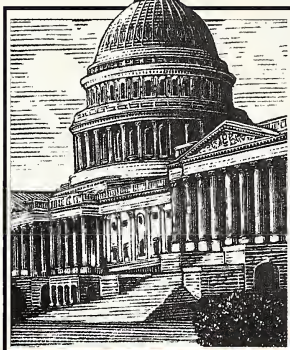
You don't want nagging back pain to slow you down, and ruin important moments in your day. So why take an ordinary pain reliever that wears off every 4 hours?

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So, why keep your pain away for a few hours, when you can keep it away all day?



REAL RELIEF IS ALL-DAY RELIEF.



By Cliff Kincaid

Gloom...

LOOKING at the 1990s, Dr. Mark Skousen says the decade as a whole could become the richest period for the stock market in history. But 1999 is a big question mark. He says it could be the time when America's so-called "bubble economy" pops and when the year 2000 computer problem generates fear and panic.

Skousen, editor of the influential *Forecasts & Strategies* newsletter, made his comments during an appearance before some political movers and shakers in Washington.

Next year figures to be questionable, he says, because there is so much uncertainty about the ability of the computers that drive our economy to move from the year 1999 to 2000, for which many haven't been programmed. It says there are possibilities of a stock market crash, electricity and food shortages and millions of Americans not receiving computer-generated government checks.

As bad as it might be here, Rep. Christopher Cox of California says Europe is behind the United States in fixing the problem.

...and Doom

THE U.S. Congress, meanwhile, is wrestling with an exotic military threat—electromagnetic pulse weapons. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland, a member of the House

National Security Committee, says he read about EMP weapons in a Tom Clancy novel years ago, only to discover they are real. Congress has held a hearing featuring much classified testimony, but enough is known publicly to suggest America is vulnerable.

Under the most frightening scenario, terrorists would infiltrate the United States and explode a nuclear device at high altitude; folks on the ground might not even notice. Nevertheless, the EMP would disable electronic systems by frying their components. "It could set us back 100 years," said one congressional staffer. "Cars wouldn't start, and air traffic control systems would fail. There would be no electricity."

It is possible to protect sensitive equipment against EMP through hardening or shielding, sources say, but it is very expensive—so expensive that it hasn't been done, except in some limited circumstances involving key weapons systems.

Dead Letters

THE United States had an Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty with the old Soviet Union. When the U.S.S.R. broke apart, the treaty died. "You can't have a treaty with yourself," says Thomas Moore, a defense analyst at the Heritage Foundation.

Nevertheless, under a series of agreements signed last September in New York City, the Clinton administration is extending the treaty to four Soviet successor states—Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine.

"The administration is implementing a new ABM treaty without the advice and consent of the Senate," Moore contends. As such, it should be brought up for a vote. If it is, he predicts at least 34 negative votes—enough to kill the treaty. Then there would be no legal impediment to building an anti-missile defense.

Porn Patrol

CRIME is higher in neighborhoods and areas with sexually oriented businesses. So Enough Is Enough, an anti-pornography group based in the Washington area, has targeted dozens of cities for a campaign to use

zoning ordinances to restrict sex business locations. But its goal of similar restrictions on the Internet has hit a snag. The Supreme Court has ruled obscenity and child pornography can be outlawed, but "indecent" material—often just as objectionable—can still be distributed on the World Wide Web, even to a child.

The group estimates there are 100,000 commercial pornography sites on the Internet, with an estimated 200 new ones every day.

Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana has a bill in Congress to require Internet pornographers to verify legal adulthood of users before allowing access to their material. Also a bill by Sen. John McCain of Arizona would require public schools to use computer software filters and public libraries to have at least one computer with a filter.

In Loudoun County, Va., the library board voted to use computer filtering technology to protect library staff and patrons from a potentially "sexually-hostile environment." The board was promptly sued for censorship.

Voting Often

ON the eve of congressional elections, a citizens organization called the Voting Integrity Project announced it will conduct vote-fraud investigations and fund legal challenges of election laws and policies that enable non-citizens to vote. VIP's announcement was prompted, in part, by the investigation of the 1996 California congressional contest between Rep. Loretta Sanchez and former Rep. Robert Dornan. That probe found 748 illegal votes in an election decided by only 979 votes.

Rep. Steve Horn of California wants fraud investigations in five states—California, New York, Texas, Florida and Illinois. These happen to be the five with the greatest number of illegal aliens. Horn has a bill to allow local and state officials to check Social Security and Immigration and Naturalization Service records.

On the Senate side, Paul Coverdell of Georgia says the 1993 federal "Motor Voter Act" has made it too easy for people to register to vote without showing proper ID and proof of citizenship. □

ALIVE & THRIVING



OST wouldn't see a nursing home as a place that can revive the soul. But the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson, S.C., has that record.

"This is not a place to come and die," declares Administrator William Biggs. "This is a place to come and live." Biggs, the first veteran to serve as Campbell administrator, says he and the staff raise residents' spirits with the help of The American Legion.

With the aid of staff members and interested veterans, Biggs created Campbell Patriots American Legion Post 184, chartered two years ago. Its location in the nursing home provides ailing and wheelchair-bound veterans an opportunity to get involved.

When the Post opened its doors, Biggs says, something amazing happened: "Guys who didn't want to do anything else with their lives wanted to become involved in the Post. Some residents previously had a dead look in their eyes. I have seen the pride come back."

Conducting Post meetings and Legion business keeps members' minds sharp, an area in which many nursing homes fall short. "We have guys here who can't get out much and do things," says Biggs, "but their commitment and love for country is as strong as anything I have ever seen."

From the first, members said they didn't want to be a Post in name only, and they backed their words with action. In the Post's two years, members have contributed to American Legion Baseball teams, donated flag poles to the local VA hospital and made contributions to nearby schools. The Post annually boasts the largest Memorial Day ceremony in town, with an average of 1,000 flocking to the home for the National Guard's posting of the colors, high school bands playing patriotic songs and commemorative speeches.

A pet project is a veterans' park, funded solely by Post 184, on the Campbell grounds. The American Legion Park will be a tribute to all veterans.

Of a nursing home population of 240, Post members number 120. Ninety percent are 70 or



STILL SERVING
William Biggs seldom misses a meeting of Campbell Patriots American Legion Post 184, which he helped launch in the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson, S.C.

older; 10 percent are younger veterans like 56-year-old Sam Rankin. Rankin served in the

Army in 1962-63, but muscular dystrophy slowly has robbed him of his muscle coordination. The 1st vice commander, who once charged through Army field exercises at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, now maneuvers the Campbell hallways in his wheelchair.

A charter member of Post 184, Rankin says joining the Post has raised the quality of his life. "I can't get out and do much," says Rankin. "The Post allows us to feel like we are able to help the community. It is good to have something to work with, and feel like I'm helping. There isn't much else I can do."

George Eskew, a former tank commander, has lived in the nursing home for five years. He says Post 184 has enlivened the home. "We do things for the good," says Eskew, who served with the 4th Armored Division. "We help other people, and that is something we all enjoy."

This commitment to community has been noticed. The Legionnaires are known locally as the Campbell Patriots. Biggs insists no word better describes this company of warriors. "Here at Campbell we want to give them as much pride and dignity as we can," he says. "These men faced war, they fought battles and they made this country great. They are heroes, and they deserve the right to be proud." □

By Julie A. Rhoad

In this South Carolina community, half the population belongs to the American Legion Post.

HEARTLAND RALLIES FOR U.S. FLAG

Legion family and CFA cohorts launch nationwide campaign to Show Your Colors, America!

CITIZENS Flag Alliance members maintain that any grade-school kid knows better than to besmirch the values and sacrifices uniquely symbolized by the U.S. Flag. Fourth-grader Casey Moscardini, 10, certainly knows better.

"The flag symbolizes our freedom and if somebody burns the flag it means our country failed," the young Chicagoan said before a *Show Your Colors, America!* rally May 24 in the heart of the city, at Daley Plaza in the Loop. Casey and members of her family attended the kickoff rally along with some 1,000 other supporters of **Senate Joint Resolution 40**, the flag-protection amendment expected to come before the Senate this summer or fall.

The rally was the first major event in a national *Show Your Colors, America!* campaign planned to mobilize grassroots political support for the flag-protection measure. The mes-



sage is simple: Show your colors in support of the amendment by flying Old Glory everywhere—at homes, businesses, schools—until the Senate passes **SJR 40** and sends it on to the states for ratification.

Rally speakers included retired Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, chairman of the CFA's board of directors; Adrian Cronauer, the Vietnam-era disk jockey portrayed in the movie, *Good Morning, Vietnam*; Department Commander Martin Conatser and Department Adjutant Vincent Sanzotta. Past National Commander John H. Geiger, Des Plaines, Ill., served as master of ceremonies.

Brady invoked the memory of veter-

ans who died in their country's service and stirred the crowd to urge their senators to support the flag amendment.

"Too many people are amputating from their memory the sacrifice of the nation's veterans," said Brady. He proclaimed that veterans who paid the ultimate price for freedom would be shocked and saddened to see the banner symbolizing the values for which they fought and died desecrated without threat of sanction or punishment.

"They would be outraged that the Supreme Court, by a single vote, overturned the right of the people to protect their flag. Now, if enough senators see enough flags flying, they will heed the voice of the people."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Georgia Democrat Sen. Max Cleland





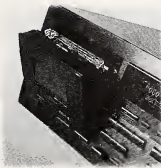
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"It was not the ACLU that gave us freedom of speech. It was the blood of men and women... who honored our flag as a banner of opportunity and freedom."

introduced **SJR 40** Feb. 4. The House passed a similar measure last year by an impressive vote of 310-114, reflecting the broad-based support for the non-partisan issue.

Adrian Cronauer, a former Air Force sergeant and currently a member of the CFA's board, disputes the contention made by the ACLU and others that banning acts of flag desecration imperils First Amendment rights to free speech guaranteed under the Constitution.

"I have always been a strong advocate of the broad First Amendment rights, including freedom of speech and

freedom of the media," Cronauer said at Daley Plaza. "But the Constitution, as I understood it all my life, did not protect flag-burning. It did not protect defecating on the flag. It did not protect those who would drag the flag through the mud and trample on its broad stripes and bright stars."

Perhaps it's true that some Americans don't care about the flag and the values it represents, but many do. Just ask Casey Moscardini.

BLOOMINGTON is as far removed from the bustling Chicago cityscape as a jeep is from a jet plane. Here it's the Heartland, Middle America personified in the people who call the seat of McLean County, Ill., home.

The day after the rally in Chicago, flag amendment supporters sounded the *Show Your Colors, America!* theme for National Commander Anthony G. Jordan, who served as parade marshal at the city's annual Memorial Day parade. Jordan joined members of Bloomington Post 56 and other area Legionnaires at a local park for speeches marking Memorial Day; Jordan later joined other veterans at a wreath-laying at a cemetery near the park.

On the bandstand at the

city's Miller Park, Jordan thanked Bloomington for re-membering its veterans.

"What impressed me this morning, as I participated in your parade, was that we didn't head right downtown on the busiest streets. We passed homes and churches on side streets. People came out and took part; now, that's Main Street America!" said Jordan. He said the values most Americans admire and strive to emulate—hard work, education, belief in God, respect for others, love of country, optimism for the future—are encased in the folds of America's unifying symbol.

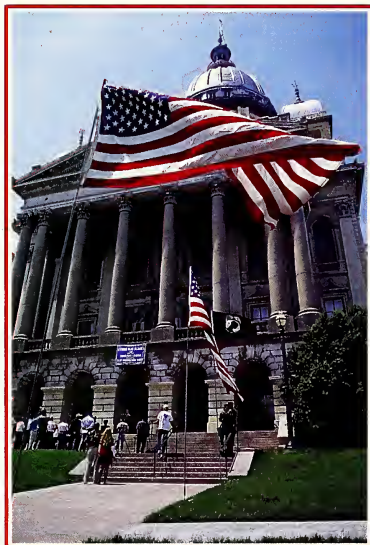
"It was not the ACLU that gave us freedom of speech. It was the blood of men and women—of all races, creeds and religions—who honored our flag as a banner of opportunity and freedom, and saw it as an ally against the forces of oppression," Jordan said.

Above all, those who have served in uniform helped preserve respect for the voice of the people, that the Constitution is America's living document, responsive to the people's voice. It's also important that the nation remember those who sacrificed to keep that collective voice strong and vibrant.

Bloomington remembers, every year.



IN MEMORIAM
National Commander Jordan spoke at every stop about the flag amendment, the flag's meaning and the promise the CFA guards for future generations.



CAPITOL IDEA Old Glory made local news after a *Show Your Colors, America!* rally organized by local Legionnaires at the Illinois Statehouse in Springfield.

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BLOWING SMOKE ON CAPITOL HILL



PHOTO © JORDAN

HOT TOPIC The American Legion feels the government's position on tobacco claims potentially puts all veterans' compensation benefits at risk, says NC Jordan.

Legislation will choke off tobacco-related claims for vets. But we'd rather fight than switch!

IT'S a sad fact that America's veterans traditionally have had to battle their own government for the benefits they earned in service to the nation. The history of The American Legion is a chronicle of that continuing struggle. One of the latest—certainly one of the most shameful—episodes in that struggle cropped up last spring.

This time around involved the government's effort to overturn the VA's own policy by denying any future veterans' claims for service-connected tobacco-related illnesses. National Commander Anthony G. Jordan, incensed over the government's shirking, reflected the indignant fire in the eyes of National Executive Committee members meeting May 6 in Indianapolis.

"How can the president, as commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the secretary of veterans' affairs, as chief advocate for veterans and their families, and members of Congress point the finger of blame at the tobacco industry and the individual veteran?" Jordan asked.

"Changing a disability compensation law for fear it will be too expensive compromises the entire disability compensation system," Jordan warned. "Worse than shifting the blame, they are willing to abrogate their responsibility to America's veterans," he charged.

"This is purely a money-driven issue," Jordan said. "This isn't an issue of moral obligation or ethical treatment. This is an issue of politics!"

By way of background, Jordan referred to a pair of resolutions on tobacco-related claims (Res. 12 and Res. 13, VA&R) the National Executive Committee approved unanimously at

Spring Meetings. The former urges the administration and Congress to reach a comprehensive settlement with the tobacco industry that ensures adequate funding for benefits needed by veterans who suffer service-connected tobacco-related ailments. The second reaffirms American Legion policy on tobacco-related illnesses; a third measure NEC members approved, Res. 25, authorizes The American Legion to pursue legal action against the federal government, if needed, to overturn the proposed ban on tobacco claims.

In 1993, the VA General Counsel ruled that a claim for service-connected disability linked to nicotine addiction incurred in service was legally valid. Despite that, between 1993 and May 1997, VA held all such claims in limbo while officials debated what to do about it and how to pay for it. The recent success of litigation against tobacco companies over health effects from nicotine addiction forced the VA to rethink its own strategy.

Until the early 1990s, the VA could and did deny all such claims, citing lack of sufficient scientific evidence linking nicotine addiction with tobacco-related illnesses. Stung by recent settlements, the VA somehow estimated its regional offices would be swamped by some 2.5 million tobacco-related claims.

On May 13, 1997, the VA General Counsel issued a second opinion proposing exacting requirements by which tobacco claims could be adjudicated.

To receive a service-connected disability rating for tobacco-related illnesses, Jordan said, a veteran must prove:

- illness is tobacco-related.
- addiction to nicotine.
- addiction occurred while the veteran was on active duty.

"That doesn't sound to me like this is an easy claim to prove—unless the claim is well documented with excellent medical records," Jordan said.

It was a busy two days for the National Executive Committee, which considered and approved 44 resolutions, welcomed special guests and unveiled two original pieces



PHOTO © JORDAN

To receive a service-connected disability rating for tobacco related illnesses, a veteran must prove:

- illness is tobacco-related.
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SPRING MEETING 1998



ART OF WAR *Desert Storm* (above) and *Ever Vigilant*, both by Nebraska artist Tom Hagel, bring up to date the art displayed in the National Executive Committee chamber to commemorate the campaigns of America's fighting services.



of art commissioned especially for the historic fourth-floor National Executive Committee room at National Headquarters.

In addition to reports and presentations, NEC members performed a more somber duty:

saying farewell to old friends and comrades lost to death.

National Commander Jordan delivered an emotional eulogy to his fellow Maine Legionnaire, National Sergeant-at-Arms George R. Gagnon, 48, who died March 15. Jordan selected Ernest J. Paradis of Post 5 in Waterville, Maine, to serve the remainder of Gagnon's term.

Past National Commanders, John P. "Jake" Comer and the Honorable H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, paid tribute to Gierke's fellow North Dakota Legionnaire, the late Rev. Jerry Salvesson, who served as Comer's National Chaplain in 1987-88. Past National Commander John H. Geiger offered eloquent words in remembrance of his friend, the late Past National Commander Al Keller Jr., of Kankakee, Ill. PNC James M. Wagoner also noted the passing of a talented and energetic fellow Ohioan, longtime NEC member Gerald Moore. Moore was serving as a National Vice Commander at the time of his death March 24 in Dayton, Ohio.

In all, the NEC approved issuing a record 44 memorial tributes to Legionnaires whose service to God and Country lives on.

MEMBERS of the National VA&R Commission learned portions of The American Legion's comprehensive reform plan for VA health care are being implemented already, said Ohio Legionnaire Chet Stellar, chairman of the National VA&R Commission.

Stellar noted that third-party reimbursement, one of the GI Bill of Health's major components, is the cornerstone of an important law, the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Act of

1996. Allowing third-party payers such as Medicare and private insurers to pay VA for care it provides veterans is a major step forward in opening up VA health care to more veterans, Stellar said.

The VA Enrollment Program has been a major public relations headache the VA is working to counter, Stellar said. Stellar said VA developed the enrollment program to improve veterans' access to a comprehensive package of services. Unfortunately, reports from the field indicate many service-connected veterans are worried they will lose their ratings and be shut out of the system entirely if they aren't enrolled by the Oct. 1 deadline.

"While veterans must be enrolled to receive care, it does not mean that veterans who have not applied for enrollment during this trial period will lose their eligibility for VA health care," Stellar said. He added that under the trial plan, any veteran who has received VA health-care services since Oct. 1, 1996 will have their applications processed automatically.

The VA has worked to clear up rumors circulating about its enrollment system, which was authorized by Congress in October 1996 to better manage access to care by enrolling veterans in one of seven priority groups. A veteran can enroll at any VA medical facility, even after the Oct. 1 enrollment deadline. For more information about the enrollment priority groups, visit VA's link on its web site at: www.va.gov/health/Elig.

In Res. 15, the VA&R Commission proposes VA set up a toll-free telephone number to supplement its other outreach efforts to veterans, and add an enrollment form to its Internet home page for its customers' convenience.

In other business, National Executive Committee members approved recommendations by members of the special subcommittee on the 21st Century: Special Projects and Leadership Development. Outlined in five extensive resolutions (Res. 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31), this comprehensive training, education and outreach effort implements proposals outlined last fall in a report by The American Legion 21st Century Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Past National Commander Daniel Ludwig.

Strategies for attracting new members, particularly young and minority veterans, plus plans to place a Post in every community are included in the ambitious blueprint for change.

After much debate, Internal Affairs Commission members approved a split schedule for the 1999 National Information Conferences, four in the fall and four in the spring. Dates and locations include: April 23-25, in Pennsylvania and Maine, to be announced; May 14-16 in Fargo, N.D. and Cheyenne, Wyo.; Sept. 24-26 in Las Vegas and Lafayette, La.; and Oct. 1-3 in Huntsville, Ala. and Evansville, Ind.

Internal Affairs Division Director Jack Querfeld outlined actions on a promising affiliation to find jobs for the nearly quarter million young men and women leaving the military each year. A one-year pilot program teaming The American Legion and Hire Quality, based in Chicago was announced Feb. 1.

The pilot project is under way in the Departments of Ohio, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois and North Carolina. □

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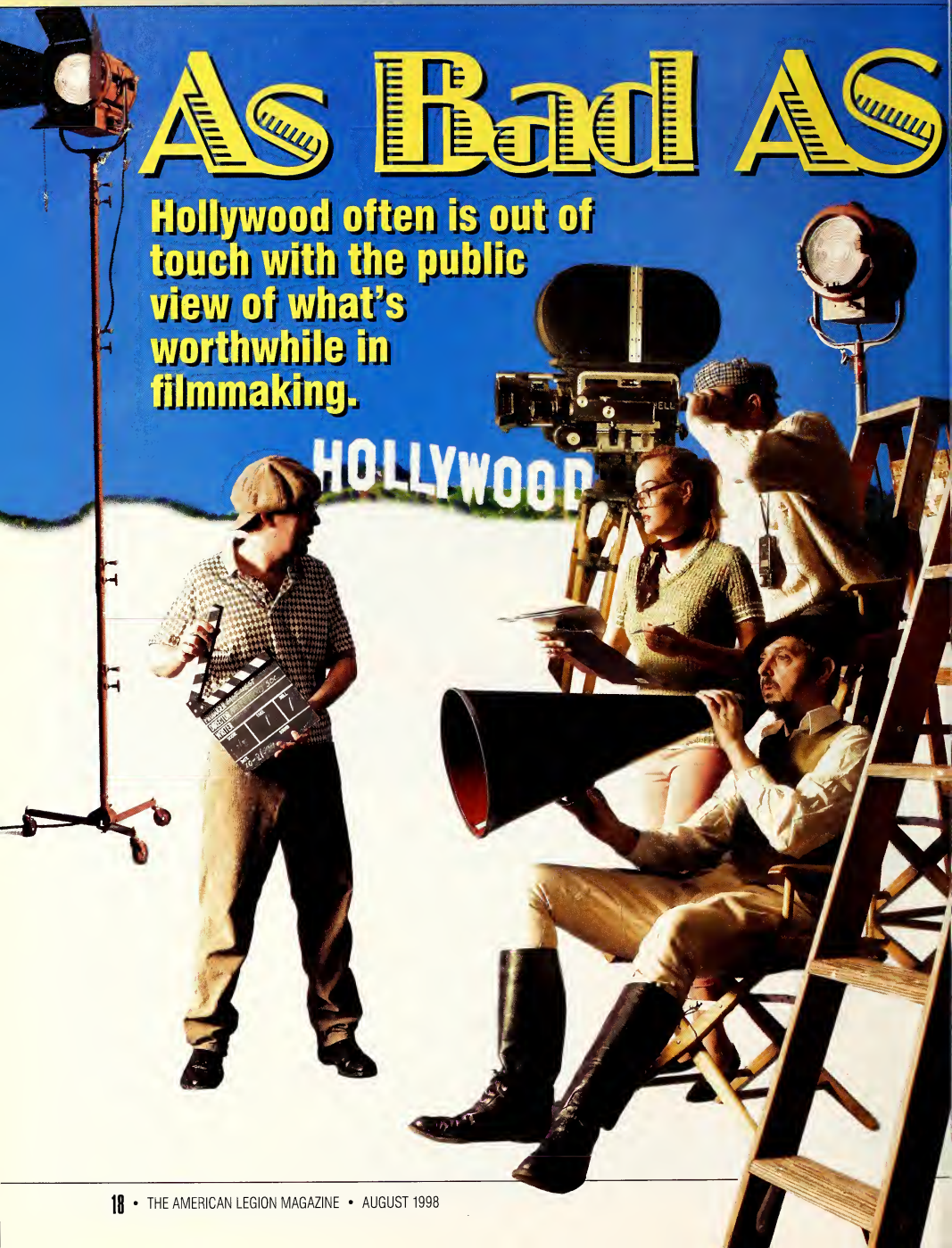
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As Bad As

Hollywood often is out of touch with the public view of what's worthwhile in filmmaking.

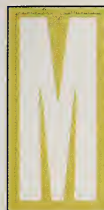


HOLLYWOOD



It Gets

By Michael Medved



MOVIE reviewers rarely agree on anything, but last year's Demi Moore fiasco, *GI Jane*, provoked a remarkable critical consensus. This high profile stinker not only earned a coveted "Golden Turkey Award" as worst film of the year, but led the way with six "Razzie" nominations for embarrassing achievement (from the Golden Raspberry Foundation) and appeared on a majority of "worst of '97" lists filed by major movie critics.

Even the title came in for harsh questioning: Since the movie described the struggles of Moore's character to qualify as the Navy's first-ever female SEAL, many rightly pointed out that SEALs and other Navy personnel are not properly designated GIs—neither Janes nor Joes. Meanwhile, the portrayal of naval training procedures descended into such science fiction lunacy that it suggested the film's director (Ridley Scott of *Thelma and Louise* fame) hadn't read a single news story about today's "equal opportunity" armed services. In the real world, a non-commissioned officer who speaks harshly or suggestively to a female recruit, or who (heaven forbid!) lays hostile hands on her body, risks the destruction of his career (or worse). In the film, Moore's sadistic, vicious master chief (played with scowling intensity by Viggo Mortensen) not only bloodies the lady's face by smashing it savagely into a pylon, but handcuffs her and attempts anal rape in front of two dozen of her fellow SEAL candidates.

Michael Medved, co-host of *Sneak Previews* on PBS and chief film critic of *The New York Post*, is the author of *What Really Happened to the Class of '65?*, *Hollywood vs. America* and the forthcoming *Saving Childhood*.

Such scenes and dialogue led the public to resoundingly reject this heavily hyped picture. Despite saturation advertising and the presence of the most expensive actress in the business (earning more than \$10 million a picture), *GI Jane* earned only \$48 million in domestic box-offices—ranking 41st among the year's moneymakers and below such notorious flops as *The Saint*, *Speed 2* and *Volcano*.

The most surprising aspect of the *GI Jane* debacle wasn't its failure to earn money for Disney, but that supposedly savvy film executives ever believed it might. After all, its point of view—that women are superior to men—or at least their equal in combat—is sensibly rejected (according to every public opinion survey) by overwhelming majorities of both males and females.

In fact, Hollywood's previous attempt at dramatizing this issue, the well-acted and generally acclaimed *Courage Under Fire* (1996), also met disappointing box-office results. This film, featuring Meg Ryan as commander of a medevac helicopter downed behind enemy lines in the Gulf War, shows Denzel Washington investigating her candidacy for a Medal of Honor and discovering that her battlefield competence is vastly greater than that of her macho associates (Lou Diamond Phillips, Matt Damon and others).

In addition to its unabashed advocacy of women in combat, *Courage Under Fire* bears another distinction: It is the only major Hollywood film attempting to portray the Gulf War. Despite the involvement of thousands of Americans, the inspiring nature of the U.S. victory, the heroic performance of our combat forces, the popularity of the

war and the continued relevance of Saddam Hussein as a villainous threat to world peace, the entertainment industry has made only this one attempt to exploit this significant chapter. And even *Courage* featured a decidedly downbeat subplot about a deadly "friendly fire" incident (involving Denzel Washington as a tank commander making a horrible mistake) and shameful military attempts to cover it up.

GIVEN all-but-universal assumptions about Hollywood's motivations—that the industry will do anything to make a buck and will play it safe by staying away from expensive, high-risk, politically preachy projects—these decisions regarding recent military epics are difficult to comprehend. If executives care only about profits, then why did they ignore the opportunity to exploit enthusiasm for the most popular application of armed force in recent American history? And if the balance sheet is all that matters, then why risk millions on costly, star-studded projects on a proposition as controversial and dubious as women in combat?

The industry's portrayal of the Vietnam War and its generally insulting treatment of its veterans raise similar questions. Though some 8 million Americans served in Indochina, and studies show most feel proud of their service, virtually all films about it, from *Apocalypse Now* through *The Deer Hunter*, *Platoon* and *Born on the Fourth of July*, emphasize American atrocities and cruelty—GIs as baby killers.

Only two minor, low-budget films (*The Hanoi Hilton* and *Hamburger Hill*, both 1987) portray our forces in Vietnam in anything like heroic or respectful terms. As for our veterans, in countless titles from *Rambo* to *Jackknife in Country* to *Distant Thunder* to *Cease-fire* to *Jacob's Ladder* and even as incidental background villains in thrillers like *Die Hard 2*, they are depicted as demented and shattered, pathetic and dangerous. Wouldn't you think that someone would have come up with the novel idea that for the thousands who experienced combat in Southeast Asia,

For more than 10 years, the majority of motion pictures have been rated 'R.'

As Bad AS It Gets

and for the millions who are members of their families, movies showing veterans more sympathy might be more appealing?

Looking at the recent track record over a wide range of themes and issues, it's obvious that Hollywood's bottom line isn't always the bottom line; the industry often entertains an agenda beyond merely making money. Consider the recent explosion of movies with Buddhist themes. *Time* magazine highlighted this trend with a cover story, featuring a photograph of movieland's number one heartthrob, Brad Pitt, and the headline: "America's Fascination with Buddhism."

A rational observer might ask: what fascination? Even the article's superheated prose acknowledged that the number of recent Buddhist converts has barely exceeded 100,000, while evangelical Christianity, traditional Catholicism, Mormonism and even Orthodox Judaism (all religious outlooks regularly insulted or ignored by mainstream media) have attracted more. Indeed, despite *Time's* shameless promotion, and the presence of the hugely popular Brad Pitt, the Buddhist-Dalai Lama saga, *Seven Years in Tibet* (rightly described as *Seven Years in My Seat*), proved a box office bust in 1997. It grossed less than \$38 million. Another 1997 Tibetan devotional, *Kundun*, released by Disney and directed by the esteemed Martin (Good Fellas) Scorsese, proved an even less successful attempt to dramatize the life of the Dalai Lama, drawing less than \$10 million.

These explorations of Asian spirituality followed the pattern set by other Buddhist-themed material, including two ambitious films of 1993, Oliver Stone's *Heaven & Earth*, starring Tommy Lee Jones, and Bernardo (The Last Emperor) Bertolucci's *Little Buddha*, starring Bridget Fonda and Keanu Reeves (as Buddha, believe it or not). Few ever heard of either because they fared so poorly, and yet these financial setbacks failed to discourage taking the huge risks involved with *Seven Years in Tibet* and *Kundun*.

Did the studios behind these more recent projects (Sony and Disney, respectively) release them because of America's (non-existent) fascination



Demi Moore *GI Jane*

with Buddhism, or because of Hollywood's fascination with Buddhism? There, the "wisdom of the east" is the flavor of the month. Richard Gere, Steven Seagall, Oliver Stone and many other leading lights of the movie industry have committed themselves to Buddhist sects and, as a result, major studios have backed these films despite little hope of box office success.

THERE is nothing malevolent in Hollywood following its own predilections rather than public preferences when it comes to projects about Eastern spirituality. All artists, including the potentates of popular culture, draw upon their own reality, their own interests and their own prejudices in choosing enterprises. It is hypocritical and misleading, however, when those same moguls respond to complaints about the messages they send to our kids by saying, "We just give the public what it wants."

The public has displayed little appetite for Buddhism—and similarly limited appetite for, say, homosexual themes, and yet even in television, the most populist arena of the entertainment industry, gay characters abound. According to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Discrimination, in 1997 major network prime-time series featured some 31 out-of-the-closet homosexual characters. Compare this to the number of conventionally religious and church-going characters in television

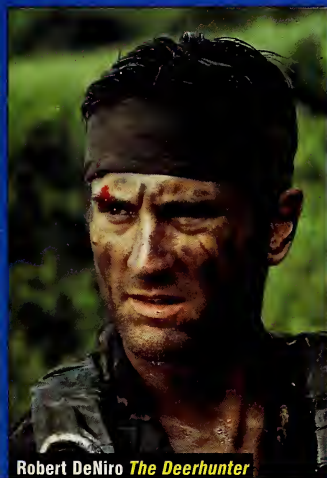


Brad Pitt *Seven Years in Tibet*

series. Imagine the conclusions of a Martian attempting to research U.S. culture by monitoring TV broadcasts. Wouldn't he reasonably conclude that America included far more gay people than religious people? And yet, every survey suggests the opposite is true, by ratios of at least 5 to 1. Moreover, despite a few modest commercial successes for gay-themed feature films (*Philadelphia*, *To Wong Foo...*), no homosexually oriented television program, not even the outrageously over-



Meg Ryan *Courage Under Fire*



Robert DeNiro *The Deerhunter*

Hollywood's Agenda

WOMEN FIRST

GI Jane and *Courage Under Fire* are films of unabashed advocacy on the issue of women in combat.

WISDOM OF THE EAST

Hollywood's fascination with Buddhism is showcased in *Seven Years in Tibet* and *Kundun*.

TAKE NO HEROES

Virtually all films about Vietnam from *Platoon* to *Deer Hunter* emphasize American atrocities and cruelty.

WALKER/KEITH KOBAL COLLECTION

MOVIE STILL ARCHIVES

moviegoers below the age of 17 substantially more difficult, significantly hurts a film's chances of box office success. Nevertheless, in 1996 and 1997, restricted films represented more than 60 percent of all releases—even while the pattern of greater profitability for “G,” “PG” and “PG-13” films continued. In '97, only two of the top 10 box office films—*Air Force One* and *Face Off*—bore the “R” rating.

Given the consistently greater difficulty in earning profits for R-rated material, why is Hollywood so addicted to violence, graphic sex and foul language? Some of this is laziness, since scenes of physical conflict and seminu love-making are among the easiest to imagine and to stage. But the problem goes beyond sloth or any conceivable pursuit of profit, as the addiction to verbal obscenity demonstrates.

According to surveys, more than 80 percent of moviegoers have repeatedly wished the movie business would clean up the language in its major releases. No one in the mass audience demands crude talk as part of an enjoyable evening's entertainment; I've never heard of anyone leaving the theater and saying, “I enjoyed that picture, but I feel frustrated because I didn't get to hear the ‘F-word’ enough!” Many people watch blockbusters in sanitized airline versions, with the tough language and nudity removed, and with no complaints. Why, then, do studios repeatedly alienate large segments of their potential audience with elements it neither demands nor enjoys?

The answer involves the odd psychology of decision-makers in the motion picture and television industries. I will never forget a depressing illustration of that thought process in a private conversation with a distinguished writer-director a few years ago. I praised his most recent film, a moving celebration of marriage and family, but told him my research suggested he would have enjoyed far greater financial success had his project not been rated “R.” The filmmaker quickly agreed, citing a studio market study that suggested a “PG” rating would have doubled his box office. This left me profoundly perplexed, since the only basis for his “R” rating was a dozen utterly unnecessary obscene words. Risking a profoundly offensive question, I asked if he ever considered taking out the tough language to get a “softer” rating and to make more money.

At this modest suggestion, his face went white, and he expressed his

publicized *Ellen*, can approach the success of, say, *Touched by an Angel*—perhaps the most overtly Christian show on television. No one can argue that the heavy representation of gay characters is a response to demand.

Does Hollywood pursue an agenda beyond profit? Of course. Consider the simple question of ratings. For more than 10 years, the majority of motion pictures have been rated “R”—despite the fact that this is the most restrictive and consistently the least profitable. In

my 1992 book *Hollywood vs. America*, I analyzed box office returns from all motion pictures released between 1983 and 1991. Those aimed at family audiences and rated “G” or “PG” on average earned more than twice as much as those rated “R.” Nevertheless, during that period the percentage of “R” films illogically increased.

Three other studies, two commissioned by major studios, have reached precisely the same conclusions: The “R” rating, which makes attendance by



Sylvester Stallone *Rambo*

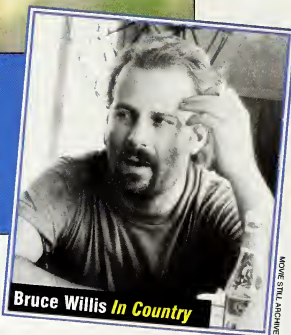
As Bad AS It Gets

indignation with thunderous disapproval. "You're talking about compromising my artistic integrity!" he declared.

THE confusion of the "F-word" with "artistry" lies at the heart of Hollywood's problem. The industry's most powerful and influential figures equate integrity with shock value. In part, this stems from a primitive sense of machismo, displayed by bespectacled film nerds insecure in their own masculinity. If you look at the general run of executives, producers, directors and writers, you will find very few former gang members, decorated combat veterans or broad-shouldered he-men. You will discover instead a preponderance of cinema society geeks and former stock boys in video stores. The infatuation with crude language, big screen brutality and torrid sex helps these behind-the-scenes power brokers achieve a veneer of toughness and daring.

It also helps earn the respect of their peers, who similarly value the dark, the demented and the dangerous when it comes to movie projects. In recent years, family-oriented entertainment has won few awards from major critics organizations. Their

HOME COMING
Returning veterans in films like *Rambo* and *In Country* are depicted as demented, pathetic and dangerous.



Bruce Willis *In Country*

members heap praise on depressing, self-consciously "arty" and spiritually empty muddles like *The Piano*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Fargo*, *The English Patient* and *Boogie Nights*.

No one in the industry wants to lose money, but if you ask most young filmmakers whether they care more about artistic respect or big box office bucks, they'll take acclaim every time. Imagine

a Hollywood party, full of glamorous starlets and various hangers-on. When Quentin Tarantino walks in, as the director of *Pulp Fiction* (his only financially successful title in a checkered career), he'll be treated like royalty.

Now imagine the entrance of one Stephen Herek. Chances are no one will pay attention to him or even recognize his name, despite the fact that his track record as a director (including *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *The Mighty Ducks* and

the hugely successful remake of *101 Dalmatians*) makes him a far more commercially successful filmmaker than Tarantino. The problem for Herek has been his focus on family-oriented entertainment.

As for leading film schools, you can rest assured that no students—no, none at all—plan to pattern their careers after Herek, but many view Tarantino as a role model. Even more will see Scorsese's career (*Raging Bull*, *Last Temptation of Christ*) as one to emulate, even though only one of Scorsese's 19 films (*Cape Fear*) became a hit. Others will seek to pattern themselves on Woody Allen, though just two of his 37 titles (*Annie Hall* and

Hannah and Her Sisters) attracted large audiences.

No one would question the talent of Scorsese and Allen—both intriguing, undeniably gifted filmmakers. But a quick look at their dismal commercial records should make it clear that Hollywood esteems them and others on a basis other than box office success.

By the same token, you can't explain the thematic content (such as advancing the cause of women in combat) or offensive elements (such as gutter language) of recent films solely on the profit motive. There's no conspiracy in Hollywood, but there is a consensus on what constitutes worthwhile work. Filmmakers don't get together and decide on politically correct messages or degrading elements in a conscious effort to influence our children, but they do seem to share certain assumptions—only occasionally coincide with ours.

It's important for the movie-going audience to keep this in mind, assuming that the world on screen represents real Americans or their preferences. Understanding the way Hollywood ignores financial consequences in pursuing the personal preferences of its powerful figures also explains the difficulties of boycotts or letter-writing campaigns. The much-publicized boycott against Disney met utterly intransigent corporate stonewalling. The entertainment industry remains far less sensitive to public pressure than generally assumed.

Ultimately, the way to change the messages Hollywood sends is to change the people responsible. □

The industry's influential figures equate integrity with shock value.

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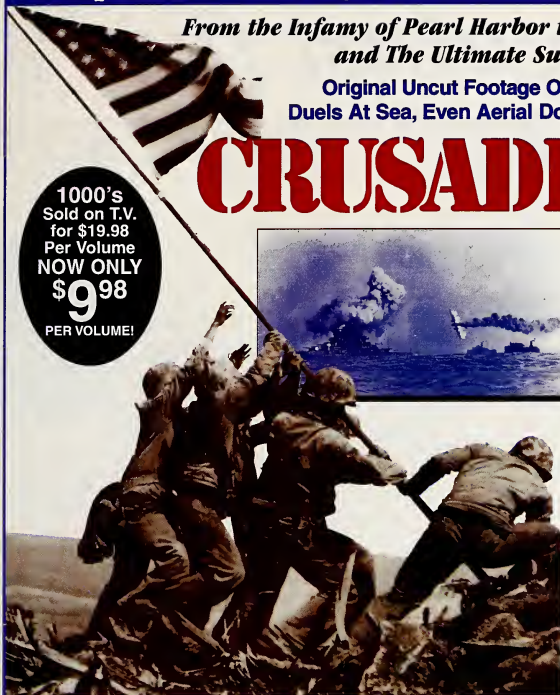
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Rage against the Dying Light

By Jay Stuller

WOT long after getting a new prescription for glasses in the fall of 1994, Mills Baldwin found it surprisingly difficult to read. At first, the former American Legion Post commander in Reno, Nev., assumed his new lenses required an adjustment period. But by Christmas, as words in the middle of his field of vision seemed to disappear, Baldwin became convinced that the spectacles "just didn't read right."

During a much closer examination, Baldwin's eye doctor had a troubling diagnosis. "He told me I had age-related macular degeneration," recalls the feisty, 84-year-old veteran. "I said,

Jay Stuller, a long-time contributor to this magazine, conducted the interview with PGA Senior Tour player Larry Nelson (April).



"What is that?" And he didn't say much, except to tell me I was losing my sight to something that can't be cured, but that I probably wouldn't go *totally* blind because I'd still have my peripheral vision."

Unfortunately, Baldwin's life-changing experience is not uncommon. In fact, age-related macular degeneration, which optometrists and ophthalmologists refer to as AMD or ARMD, is the leading cause of vision loss in adults over age 65. Some 6 million Americans already are afflicted. Studies suggest the condition will affect from 30 to 40 percent of those over 75. And yet, except among victims and their families, AMD is largely unknown.

The somewhat anonymous nature of AMD, however, will change. For one thing, America's rapidly aging population raises the potential for a skyrocketing number of cases. For another, a macular degeneration activist group

Macular degeneration is an age-related disease that yet cannot be cured, but promising treatments are in view.

says AMD costs Americans some \$50 billion a year.

The disease strikes the macula, which is a small part in the center of the eye's retina—about the size of a ladybug—that makes clear central vision possible. The retina is the innermost layer of tissue that lines the back of the eye. A delicate layer of tissue, it contains photoreceptor cells that convert light into electrical impulses, which converge at the optic nerve and are transmitted to the brain, where we actually see.

There are two different types of AMD. The most common is called dry AMD, which accounts for about 90 percent of all cases. With it, yellowish deposits of a material called drusen accumulate and eventually cause the macula's cells to degenerate and die. Its onset is often first noticed by people having difficulty reading, as was the case with Baldwin. For others, objects that come into the center of their visual field will grow blurry or seem to disappear, only to re-emerge

in peripheral vision.

The good news about dry AMD is that it usually develops slowly. And, while each case is different, most victims retain some peripheral vision and do not go completely blind. They can enjoy many activities with the use of vision aids. The bad news is dry AMD has no current treatment or cure.

Wet AMD is responsible for about 10 percent of the cases, and poses a much greater threat of total blindness. It attacks sight when it causes new blood vessels growing beneath the macula to turn fragile and leak fluid and blood, which in turn causes photoreceptor cells to degenerate.

If detected early, wet AMD can sometimes be treated with laser surgery, which might slow or stop progression, says Tom Hoglund, science information manager at the Foundation Fighting Blindness. "Even then, the surgery itself causes some degradation of central vision."

Detection of ADM is relatively easy, even before the condition creates a spot-like empty area in the middle of the visual field. For folks considered at risk for AMD, optometrists and ophthalmologists often hand out an Amsler grid, and ask patients to test themselves almost daily.

While covering one eye at a time, patients look at the dot in the center of the grid. If the lines are wavy, distorted or seem to bend back to the center, a macular problem could be developing.

"Ophthalmologists have more sophisticated tests to see if drusen is forming for dry AMD, and tell during an exam whether the wet variety is there," says Hoglund. "But it's kind of surprising that general practitioners don't catch it more often."

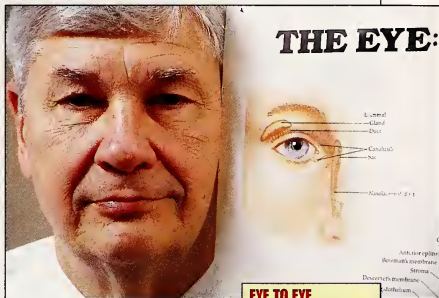
However, as new therapies emerge, the benefits of early detection will make such screening truly worthwhile, says Gerald Chader. "You've got people who develop this disease at the age of 70, and a lot of them have 10 or 15 more years to live. That's why the research is so important. If we come up with a therapy that stops AMD progression for a decade or so, it's as good as a cure."

Science still isn't sure what causes AMD, although a recent research breakthrough found a genetic component that could be responsible in 16 percent of cases. "And we think genet-

ics will be a key with many more people," adds Chador. Still, finding hard causes has been elusive.

A variety of risk factors have been studied, including smoking, a history of hypertension and sun exposure, especially for people with light skin and eye color. "A study of Chesapeake Bay watermen showed they had a greater incidence of AMD," says Hoglund, "which may be due to their great exposure to sunlight."

Aside from the laser surgery used on wet AMD, most experts consider other



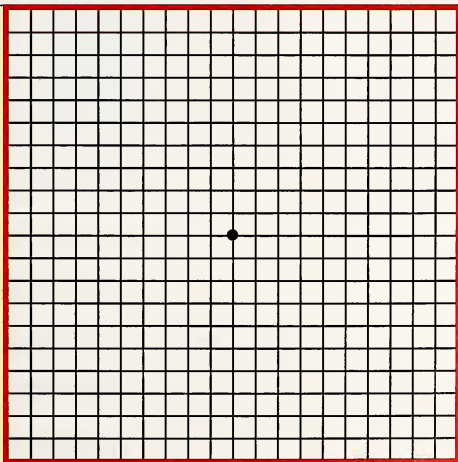
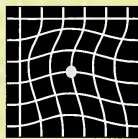
EYE TO EYE
Gerald Chader of the Foundation Fighting Blindness hopes a new protein that acts as a neuron survival agent could help in the fight against some forms of macular degeneration.

common treatments touted as working against macular degeneration as either ineffective, dubious or downright dangerous. In the 1980s,

Please turn to page 51

Macular Degeneration Self Test

While covering one eye, look at the dot in the center of the grid. If lines around the dot are wavy or distorted, you may have a macular problem. Consult your eye-care professional as soon as possible.



The People's Park Place BOARD

WALK



3

By G. Patrick Pawling

In the beginning there was sand, and it wasn't good—not for Alexander Boardman. Boardman was a train conductor. When people left the beach to board his train, they brought the sand with them. Every day, the people came, and every day, he swept sand out of his train. For Boardman, life was no day at the beach. He didn't like sweeping. But he did like to think, and eventually he thought this:

Why do they have to walk on the sand? Why not build them a walkway, a kind of sidewalk that gets them close to the water but keeps the sand out of their shoes?

And so the boardwalk was invented.

The place: Atlantic City, N.J.—a mosquito-packed spit of sand becom-



**Boardwalks were
to beaches what
superhighways
would be to
America—a means
of easy access.**

ing popular as a resort for Philadelphia residents. Boardman's idea soon took hold, and by July of 1870 the town had its first boardwalk. It was only a mile long, and the city was so poor it needed a loan of \$1,080 from its mayor to finish the job. But as soon as it opened, it was immensely popular.

And the East Coast would never be the same. Boardwalks did for beaches what the superhighway did for—or to—the United States. They bestowed access, giving everyday people a public highway to the sea, allowing them a place where they could have their beach without eating it, too.

To this day, boardwalks are lines we draw in the sand—the wooden edge of civilization, a fragile DMZ. They're where we go when we have to get away but can't go far.

In many ways, Atlantic City's Boardwalk mirrored the city's evolution and the nation's. Peel away the layers of salt and you find wars, hurricanes, lovers and luck—a lot of luck, because that's what the ocean brings.

At first, no stores were permitted on the boardwalk. It was a place to walk, a promenade. By 1880, the first boardwalk had already been wrecked by a



1 FIRST BOARDWALK 1870 Atlantic City's mile-long walkway let people get close to the water and kept the sand out of their shoes.

2 BATHING BEAUTIES In the early 1900s, women's bathing suits could use up to seven yards of cloth. Until 1928, women were not allowed on the beach without stockings.

3 BY THE DUNES Today's boardwalk varies from 20 to 60 feet in width and is a bit more than four miles long.

4 BEACH PARTY Men were required to wear shirts on the beach until 1940.

storm and replaced, and the new one had nearly 100 businesses on it. In some spots it even had a roof.

It was a place of elegance. Strollers wore formal clothes; swimmers had to cover their entire bodies except for their faces and hands. Women's bathing suits used seven yards of cloth and reached to the ankles.

By 1907 some younger women were pushing the limits, trying to lose their stockings in the August heat. Beach Superintendent John T. Bechwith issued an order on Aug. 25, 1907: no women on the beach without stockings. That held until 1928 when the ban unraveled.

As automobiles replaced trains, the city's boardwalk changed too, becoming less formal. Its entertainment piers offered live music from the biggest entertainers of the day, including Al Jolson, Irving Berlin, Sophie Tucker and the Ziegfeld Follies. By 1940 all heck had broken loose: Men could go without shirts on the beach.

When World War II erupted, the entire world changed, and so did Atlantic City. The elegant old hotels were commandeered for use as barracks and hospitals; the boardwalk became a



refuge, a place where servicemen could lean against the railing, smoke a cigarette, watch the passing girls and consider their luck, or what was left of it.

Esther Colao was one of those girls. She would put on her bobby sox and her black and white saddle shoes and a poodle skirt, and for 25 cents she'd see a movie on one of the piers. When she was a junior in high school in 1942, she went to a USO dance. It seemed like there were as many servicemen as there were grains of sand on the beach. But

somehow she noticed one in particular. They danced, then they dated. And though the war separated them for many months, they've now been together for 51 years, living to this day only a few miles from the boardwalk where they met.

In a seedy way, Atlantic City's Boardwalk thrives to this day. Some 37 million people visit the city every year, and many make it to the boardwalk for at least a few minutes. Which means Boardwalk is never boring. But its

BOARDWALK: THE WAR YEARS

DURING the war years, sugar and coffee might have been hard to get, but danger and romance were everywhere. So was sadness.

It was common to see volunteers from England General Hospital (which would later become Resorts International Hotel Casino) pushing amputees in wheelchairs on the boardwalk. Back then, Atlantic City was better than, say, Sicily or North Africa, but if you were in Atlantic City at all, the odds were good it was because you were wounded or were going to war. If ever the recuperative powers of the ocean were put to the test, it was then.

Bill Pogust, 76, fought through Africa and was wounded in Sicily. He spent nearly two years recuperating in Atlantic City.

"The guys would line the rail in the evenings, and of course the girls would come walking by and talk to you," he recalls. "There were lots of guys around with no legs, or one arm."

"The main thing I remember is that when I first came back, the guys in the



MARCH TO THE SEA World War II found elegant Atlantic City hotels conscripted as hospitals and barracks, troops drilling on the boardwalk and practice invasions being staged on the beach (below left).

Air Force, they used to fly out of a base only a couple miles away, and they used to make like they were diving on the boardwalk, doing their practice runs, because they were running with the nurses and they wanted to impress them. But, Jeez, you'd get guys who were just back from the front, and they'd be running under the boardwalk to get out of the way, because, you know, it sounded like somebody was dropping bombs on them again.

"But the girls, that was fun. They would try to pick us up...you didn't have to worry about buying a beer or finding a girl."

But lots of people did worry. The boardwalks—in Atlantic City and other seaside resorts—looked gloomy, with their blue lights and blackouts.

"Everybody was concerned about the war," says Colao. "You kind of looked out at the ocean looking for submarines." □

glory days are gone.

"There is a lack of gentility and a lack of courtesy, and I despise going up on the boardwalk now," says Harold Abrams, 79, who was born and raised in Atlantic City and who operated a nightclub that hired entertainers like

Count Basie. "It depresses me."

In the early days, Abrams says, "it was like an adventure, it was exciting. The only thing I can compare it to today is Disneyland. It was a magic world. Every week there was a new Broadway show in town, because Atlantic City

was the trout town for New York."

Now it's not the pilings that anchor Atlantic City's Boardwalk; it's the casinos.

"It was like an intensive-care patient," says Abrams, "like something happened in the hospital, and the city's life was saved. I don't think there would be anything here if it weren't for the casinos. Everybody was trying to get the hell out of here."

And if Atlantic City's Boardwalk is raffish in a tank-top kind of way, well, that's Atlantic City. If Boardwalk were anything else, it wouldn't be honest.

But no matter what boardwalks are like, they draw us to the sea, the healing sea. That hasn't changed. There's even another train line running from Philadelphia to Atlantic City. Alexander Boardman would be proud. And happy that the sand is still staying on the beach.

(Special thanks to historian Vicki Gold Levi, co-author with Lee Eisenberg of *Atlantic City: 125 Years of Ocean Madness*, and to Frank Butler's *Book of the Boardwalk*.) □

Nothing Pedestrian

EVERY boardwalk has its own personality, just as each town is different. In Wildwood, about 30 miles from Atlantic City, the boardwalk is terminally tacky. Leather and tattoos are big, along with carnival-like games of chance. But the amusement rides are state of the art. Like Atlantic City, Wildwood's boardwalk has an edge.

"Boardwalks are supposed to be places where you'll be doing things your mother isn't quite sure she wants you doing," says Dane Wells, who operates a bed and breakfast in nearby Cape May. "A boardwalk is supposed

to have a certain tackiness and a certain sleaziness."

In Ocean City, N.J., a dry town founded as a religious resort, the boardwalk is tamer than most, family oriented and short on wild rides and attitude.

And so it goes, up and down the East Coast. A town, a personality, a boardwalk to match. Even the construction of boardwalks is different. Some aren't made of boards at all—they're made of cement. Boring, maybe, but there for you when times are bad. □

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DEFENDING THE FAMILY

The American family is under attack on many fronts. But the most deadly enemy we face in the next century is complacency and denial, warns the chief of the Family Research Council.

FAMILY values!" In stump speeches and sound bites, politicians of every stripe, from school board candidates to presidential wannabes, gaze into the eyes of mainstream America and chant this mantra, seeking head-nodding disciples. Eyebrows sometimes arch, tongues cluck and hands clap with mere utterance of the two words.

Does America place value on traditional families today? The answer is "yes," notes the Washington, D.C.-based Family Research Council. But American families often are ignored and under attack by some politicians, social engineers and the cultural elite. The FRC says it exists to defend the family in the media, to advocate family values in legislative and public-policy initiatives and, as FRC literature states, "to promote Judeo-Christian principles upon which the United States was founded."

The 500,000-member group is said to rival the Christian Coalition as the point group for conservative activism. The FRC doesn't shy away from taking a position on the lightning-rod issues of the day: The council opposes abortion, supports voluntary prayer in public schools, blasts same-sex marriages and generally says the courts and lawmakers need to get out of the every-day lives of American families.

"We're active in the legislative process here in our nation's capital, but our real strength is at the grassroots level, where our members try to make their communities better," notes Gary Bauer, the 51-year-old president of the Family Research Council.

"The real America exists outside the beltway of this town," says Bauer. "But the one thing all politicians share—whether they are Republicans or Democrats, liberals or conservatives—is a trembling fear of unemployment. If you can pour enough phone calls and letters into a congressional office, you might not make them see the light, but you can sure make them feel the heat."

Bauer has headed the FRC since late 1988, when the curtain was lowering on the Ronald Reagan administration. Bauer served as under secretary for the Department of Education and as Reagan's director of the Office for Policy Development. He's the author of *Our Hopes, Our Dreams: A Vision of America*, which zoomed to the top of the Christian best-seller list in 1996. Bauer also is a regular on national television talk shows, often trading jabs with journalists and pundits on front-burner topics.

FRC's point man addresses the issues American families grapple with daily in the following interview with Editor Joe Stuteville.

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: What is the traditional family unit and does it really exist?

GARY L. BAUER: For several thousand years, western civilization and religious faiths have recognized that the ideal situation for family is a man and a woman, and if they desire, children. This is the basic cultural building block of our civilization. A society that does not have a large percentage of its people living in a strong nuclear family unit is a society in trouble. Here in Washington, the Family Research Council tries to make sure laws are not making it harder for the family to exist, and we certainly want to ensure Washington is not doing anything to subsidize inappropriate lifestyles and decisions that are harmful to the country.

Q. For example?

A. The welfare system. For a long time, we were rewarding out-of-wedlock births and then all of a sudden, the number of births went up and so did the amount of public money poured into welfare. No real surprise there.

Q. Do you believe there is a growing trend on Capitol Hill and courts to interfere with the family unit?



FAMILY ACTIVIST

Gary Bauer, director of the Family Research Council, says he's betting the American family will make the right decisions.

A. I do. However, in Congress, we've actually improved the last few election cycles as more people have taken office who are more sensitive to pro-family issues. But the bureaucracy in this town, particularly the courts, increasingly treats parents as if they are beside the point or part of the problem. There are some bureaucrats—for example within the Department of Education—who believe they know what is better for kids than the parents who raise them; you have courts granting rights to children over and above the rights of parents. That's a dangerous situation.

Q. The Family Research Council has called for cutting federal assistance to local schools. Won't this actually hurt public-education programs?

A. No. What we propose is to take the money that is being spent at the federal level, some \$35 billion, and make block grants to the states. We want the citizens of Detroit, Cincinnati or wherever to use that money for the priorities they think best suits the needs of their children.

It's fine to have national goals for education in our communities, but when you let the Washington bureaucracy define those goals, I can guarantee you they will come up with a politically correct mess that will be counterproductive and harmful to our children. You see, bureaucracies are almost always isolated and rarely relevant to most of us.

Q. How about the FRC's call for cutbacks in funding of public radio and television. Aren't you concerned that such a move will kill off Big Bird and send quality programs such as *Nova* spinning into a black hole of public programming?

A. Well, Big Bird makes more money than I do [laughs]. Popular programs like *Sesame Street* would survive very well in the marketplace. We contend strongly the average American family is over-taxed. How about returning the money to the men and women of this country—who work hard for it—and let them decide what kind of art, music and entertainment reflects their values? We shouldn't ask American families to tighten their belts when Washington continues to waste billions of dollars for things that are not urgent or relevant to the average taxpayer.

Q. The Family Research Council claims to defend the American family in the media. Are you saying there is a strong anti-family bias in the news media?

A. There's a general alienation between the elitists in our society and the values of average Americans. This gulf is not just with the journalists, but in academia, where some have a different world view of what family values are, the difference between right and wrong and even such things as patriotism.

Let me give you an example: If you were to poll Americans you would clearly see there is great and widespread support from average Americans for the proposed flag-protection amendment. The least support comes from journalists, professors and commentators. That's why Ronald Reagan used to say he would much rather be governed by the first 100 names in the Boston telephone directory than he would by the faculty of Harvard.

Q. The flag amendment is an issue certainly of great interest to The American Legion. Does the FRC support the amendment?

A. Absolutely. Over the last year, I've repeatedly used our radio show to promote the amendment. The flag-protection issue is a very personal one with me. My father served with the 1st Marine Division in the South Pacific during World War II. So, at a very early age, I was taught to respect the symbols of our country because they are the physical essence of who and what we are. My father did not take lightly disrespect for the national anthem or the American flag. I fear American society today is losing respect for its great symbols. I cannot help but believe a handful of liberal judges are trying to remake America and the Constitution, and we need to do everything we can to stop them.

Q. Prayer in public schools certainly is an issue the courts have been involved in, specifically in limiting how it may be conducted.

A. The Family Research Council very much favors student-initiated prayer. I wouldn't want a teacher or principal writing a prayer and expecting students to recite it. But in public schools today we allow every imaginable group to meet, from Young Socialists to the Vegetarian Society of America, or whatever, and it seems to me to be unfair not to permit students to express their religious faiths.

The irony is that at a time when violence and drug abuse are on the upswing in public schools, when we're witnessing an unacceptably high school dropout rate and condoms are

being distributed in the classroom, our leaders are most worried about kids who want to pray. This is a circumstance I think most Americans find extremely bizarre.

Q. Your group takes a strong anti-abortion stance, particularly when it comes to federal subsidization of abortion.

A. America defined itself at the beginning of our republic, when the founders wrote, "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We believe the right to life is the first right and that all other rights mean nothing if this is not in place. We seek legislation that restricts abortions as much as they can be, and we've tried to get judges appointed who recognize that unborn children deserved to be protected by the Constitution as well as the rest of us. I believe most Americans are more and more focused on the humanity of the unborn child instead of this vague concept called "pro-choice."

Q. One choice the Boy Scouts of America recently was forced to accept was a federal court ruling to admit gays into the scouting ranks and even as adult leaders. What's your take on this issue?

A. We're obviously upset about this ruling and have attempted to secure legislation that would reaffirm the right of the Scouts, as a private organization, to make their own rules about the type of members they want and the values they wish to instill. I think this situation is just another example of how organizations and people with traditional views are under attack by the courts, American Civil Liberties Union and the usual far-out liberal crowd.

Q. You've been quoted as saying gay rights, particularly the legal recognition of same-sex marriages, should not be equated with civil rights. What's the difference?

A. Civil rights apply to race and gender and have nothing to do with character. Homosexuality has everything to do with character, and it is a practice that every major religion discourages—it's a behavior from which one can escape. As a culture, we should not provide incentives and encouragement for behavior that all of civilization tries to

discourage.

This is going to be a big issue in the coming years because the gay-rights movement is so powerful in Hollywood and in the news media. I don't think the people who have gone to war for this country did so with the thought they were defending the right of men to marry men and women to exchange wedding vows with women.

Q. You can't open a daily newspaper without hearing the latest on the sexual allegations swirling around President Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Do you believe the president has been forthright with the American people on this and other similar controversies?

A. No, I don't. Perhaps my own partisan biases are obvious here since I worked for the Reagan White House. What troubles me most are the polls which report that many citizens say that even if Clinton did these things, it should not matter. This sends a terrible lesson to our children about everything from marital fidelity to character to standards of what is right and wrong. Make no mistake about it: It's not about sex—it's about character.

Q. Are there any good examples of moral and character leadership in America today?

A. She wasn't an American, but the late Mother Theresa packed a powerful message all Americans should pay attention to. She came to Washington a couple of years ago and spoke at the National Prayer Breakfast. In that small voice, without anger, this frail woman talked about the need to respect life, especially the lives of the unborn and cast-aways. She said, "America, if you do not want these children, give them all to me. I will find a place for them."

Leadership examples can be found in the day-to-day lives of average Americans. It's the parent who makes the decision to stay home and assume the very important job of taking care of children. It's the mother or father who make incredible sacrifices to impart those values that make families strong.

Q. What are some of the critical issues the American family will face in the 21st century?

A. The experts say we are now coming to an end of the so-called "American Century." All through the last 100 years the United States has led the nations of the free world to defeat the enemies of this century—the Nazis, Cold War communists and other despots. Our values have and continue to sweep the globe. This has been a great century for us.

The challenge in the 21st century is not to meet the barbarian at the gate; it's going to be our confrontation with the barbarian in the human heart. Can we, as a society, rediscover what our founders meant when they said that only a virtuous people can remain free? We're free men and women, but that doesn't mean we can or should be allowed to do anything we want to do. Strengthening the American family is at the head of this list.

This will be the big battleground of the next century: Can we learn how to use our liberty in a responsible way that will safeguard the freedom of our children and grandchildren? Or will we just spin out of control and ultimately lose our liberty? I'm placing my bet American families will make the right choice. □

Meet Gary L. Bauer

- President of Family Research Council, Washington, D.C., since 1992
- Senior vice president of James Dobson's Focus on the Family, 1988-92
- Chairman of the Citizens Committee to Confirm Clarence Thomas (to the U.S. Supreme Court), 1991
- Assistant to President Reagan for Policy Development, 1987-88
- Under Secretary for the Department of Education, 1985-1987
- Author of *Our Hopes, Our Dreams: A Vision of America and Our Journey Home*
- Law degree, Georgetown University Law School, 1973

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Legal Action Pledged If Vets' Benefits Cut

DESPITE enactment of **PL 105-178**, The Transportation Equity Act, which diverts an estimated \$15.4 billion from veterans seeking VA disability compensation and health-care claims for tobacco-related illnesses, a potential legal detour looms down the road.

At the Spring Meetings last May in Indianapolis, the National Executive Committee approved **Res. 25**, authorizing The American Legion to pursue legal action, if needed, to safeguard service-connected compensation for veterans who become ill or die due to tobacco use while on active duty. The National Executive Committee also approved **Res. 12** and **Res. 13** (VA&R).

The first resolution urges Congress and the White House to reach a comprehensive settlement with tobacco companies that ensures adequate funding for VA benefits and medical care for veterans suffering from tobacco-related illnesses related to their military service. **Res. 13** reaffirms the Legion's policy on service-connection for tobacco disabilities.

"Veterans and their supporters are going to fight this, each step of the way," says National Commander Anthony G. Jordan.

Jordan calls upon Legionnaires, other veterans and concerned Americans to contact the White House to urge President Bill Clinton to use his line-item veto to strike out the provision that would deny VA disability compensation to veterans with smoking-related medical problems.

Nearly 9,000 applications for tobacco-related claims have been filed; more than 90 percent have been denied.

In 1993, VA's General Counsel ruled that veterans had the right to pursue tobacco-related claims. But more recently, the VA, fearing a deluge of claims stemming from the government's long-standing policy of encouraging tobacco use in the military, tightened eligibility requirements.

"The VA's top lawyer has repeatedly ruled that veterans have a legal right to benefits for service-connected, tobacco-related problems," Jordan says.

PL 105-178 contains various technical flaws that forces Congress to begin work on a technical corrections bill. One of the flaws addressed veterans' tobacco-related illnesses and ailments, maintaining that these ailments were a result of "willful misconduct" on the part of veterans.

A technical corrections bill (**HR 3978**) was approved in the House by a voice vote on June 3, but final action on the bill has stalled in the Senate. West Virginia Sen. Jay Rockefeller has offered an amendment that would kill the \$15.4 billion offset which seeks to prevent VA from providing disability compensation to veterans with smoking-related ailments.

Other provisions of **PL 105-178** are not so gloomy for veterans. Among them: a 20 percent increase in the rates of basic educational assistance benefit for participants in the Montgomery GI Bill; a \$5,000 increase, from \$38,000 to \$43,000, in VA assistance for specially adapted housing; a \$2,500 increase, from \$5,500 to \$8,000, for automobile and adaptive equipment for certain disabled veterans; a \$600 increase in aid and attendance rates for veterans eligible for certain pensions; and, eligibility criteria of certain remarried surviving spouses for reinstatement of dependency and indemnity compensation upon termination of their remarriage.

"The American Legion will continue to lobby both chambers of Congress to kill the \$15.4 billion offset which will severely impact, not only on veterans with tobacco-related illnesses, but also veterans' health-care accounts for years to come," Jordan says. "If one veterans' benefit can be eliminated by congressional action, what larger accounts could be declared budgetarily unnecessary by the president or Congress?"

Accurate Census Data Vital to Planning Vets' Services

For more than 200 years, through war, internal strife and national emergency, Uncle Sam has counted on America's veterans. Soon, Uncle Sam will be counting on Legionnaires to help with the 2000 decennial census.

"Veterans have a lot riding on this census," says National Commander Anthony G. Jordan. "It's a time for America's veterans to stand up and be counted, literally, because those who aren't might be passed over for job placement, medical and other benefits they have coming to them."

The American Legion supports public cooperation for this massive undertaking (**Res. 2**, Spring NEC, 1998). Authorized under *Article I, Section 2* of the U.S. Constitution, the census provides the nation's statistical

underpinning. The Census Bureau's purpose, to count all residents in every state to apportion seats in the House of Representatives, has grown to include gathering information used by the federal government to distribute billions of dollars.

"As far as veterans are concerned, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Labor are the two primary agencies most affected by allocations dictated by the census numbers," says Jordan. For example, the VA relies on the census to help decide where to locate medical centers, clinics, cemeteries and other facilities. VA allocates discretionary funds, up to \$17 billion a year, based on where veterans live.

"The American Legion understands

that migration trends for veterans may differ from the general population, and for decades now has carefully tracked the shift of dollars from VA facilities in the East and Midwest, to the Sunbelt states," says Jordan. "We don't want to shortchange veterans of the services they've earned, no matter where they live. An inaccurate census count would adversely affect VA's ability to deliver services where needed, and shortchange those veterans VA serves."

Legion Posts are encouraged to open their facilities for use as census training centers and as collection points for census forms. Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion also can serve as census workers. □

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CHECK ARRIVES

RESERVISTS still owed money under the Ready Reserve Mobilization Program are finally being paid in full. Deployed reservists who enrolled in the now defunct program—and were on involuntary mobilization orders before Nov. 18, 1997—began receiving full payments in June. They should continue to receive program benefits each month until their deployments end.

Enrolled reservists will also continue to pay premiums, said Army Lt. Col. Terry Jones, Department of Defense spokesman.

All reservists owed back-pay should have begun receiving their money by July 15.

The insurance program was funded by an emergency supplemental appropriation act signed by President Clinton in May. The emergency appropriation included \$47 million to pay all the insurance program costs through fiscal 1998. About 2,900 service members were due payments.

Disbursements will vary between \$500 and \$5,000, depending on an individual's coverage.

Congress discontinued the program as of Nov. 18 after less than two years, blaming low enrollment and the program's expense for its demise. The insurance plan was established because of the economic losses service members suffered in the Gulf War. Surveys showed that about two-thirds of the 268,000 reservists mobilized for Desert Storm had a financial loss related to the action.

The program offered reservists as much as \$5,000 monthly to cover losses if they were involuntarily mobilized but only 3 percent of those eligible actually enrolled.

Low enrollment and the timing and length of the Bosnia mission caused the program to fall into deficit, Jones said. Lack of funding, for a time, caused deployed reservists to be paid only 5 percent of the benefits to which they were entitled.

Those with questions should ask their unit personnel sections about the program.

COMBAT MEDICINE

TO keep military doctors ready for war, the services will send them to the most violent environment this side of the battlefield—inner-city trauma hospitals.

Beginning this fall, medical teams will spend 30 days at trauma centers patching up victims of urban violence. In October, the first group, a 20-member Army forward surgical team, will train at Ben Taub General Hospital in Houston.

Gunshots, stabbings, auto accidents, fires and other emergencies create injuries similar to those suffered in war. But working conditions will be better than on the battlefield. Trauma hospitals have bigger staffs and more equipment.

GUARD AGAINST TERROR

NATIONAL Guard members are being called out to help local, state and federal officials cope with the threat of terrorism.

The Department of Defense has chosen 10 states for the Guard's first Rapid Assessment Element teams—groups assembled to help deal with possible terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction.

The units are drawn from Guard operations in California, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington. There is a team in each of the 10 national regions established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the units will be permitted to cross state boundaries to deliver help where needed.

Pentagon officials said the teams would play a support role and leave local officials in the lead.

The teams include reconnaissance, medical, air liaison, security, logistics and communications experts.

BURDEN SHARING

IN a clear sign the Army sees no end to the Bosnia mission, soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, will deploy to Bosnia for a year to relieve soldiers from U.S. Army Europe, who have shouldered the Army's peace-enforcement mission for two years.

It is the first time the Army has decided to send a U.S.-based division to Bosnia. The move is intended to spread the burden of peacekeeping Army-wide. Between 7,000 and 8,000 1st Cav troops will begin deploying in September, replacing 1st Armored Division units at Eagle Base in Tuzla.

The 1st Cav will work with NATO forces as well as troops from Finland, Estonia, Poland, Latvia, Sweden, Lithuania and Russia. Its tasks include force projection, controlling civil disturbances, inspecting weapons storage sites and patrolling.

Although the division is deploying for a year, most troops within the division are expected to rotate after about 120 days, says the Pentagon.

IN THE NEWS

BY 2004, the U.S. Air Force hopes to cut the cost of space launches in half by hiring private companies to put most of its satellites and sensors into orbit....The Army is taking on-line security clearance applications from reservists to reduce paperwork and cut processing time....Troops should start getting faster travel reimbursements as the travel claims process is privatized....At Fort Sill, Okla., electronic fingerprint scanners now check the identity of troops who make purchases with cash cards instead of cash. □

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THE ROAD TO RECONCILIATION

DIANE Carlson Evans took a physical and emotional beating earlier this year on a grueling 16-day, 1,200-mile bike trek along Highway One, Vietnam's coastal highway. But for the former Army nurse, the aches and fatigue were worth it to spend time in a lush, green country, welcomed as a friend by former enemies.

Evans, 51, a member of Post 26 in Northfield, Minn., joined other Vietnam veterans as part of a larger contingent of 80 Americans and 20 Vietnamese comprising the "Vietnam Challenge" team. The group pedaled from Hanoi to Reunification Hall (formerly the Presidential Palace) in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), arriving Jan. 16.

"The Vietnam Challenge," a goodwill tour organized by World T.E.A.M.

(The Exceptional Athlete Matters) Sports, brought together athletes of differing backgrounds to promote awareness of the capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Riders on the Challenge ranged in age from 11 to 78, from three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond (a member of the World T.E.A.M. Sports board of directors) to Wayne Smith, a 50-year-old former Army medic and president of the Black Patriots Foundation in Washington, D.C. So, too, was Duane Wagner, a former Marine who left both legs in Vietnam, but today is one of the top-ranked riders on the U.S. disabled cyclists circuit.

Team members averaged 90 miles a day, nightly



PEDALING PAIS Diane Carlson Evans and three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond in Ho Chi Minh City at the finale of the 1,200-mile "Vietnam Bike Challenge."

nursed sore muscles, consumed around 17,000 oranges, 4,500 bottles of water and gobbled innumerable

Power Bars on the road to Ho Chi Minh City.

Attrition and the consistent 90-degree heat put more than one rider in the "sag wagon" for a day of recuperation. The van was one of 11 vehicles in an efficient support contingent whose drivers battled logistical problems with the same determination the cyclists showed on a hill at gut-check time. Vietnamese officials initially tried to limit the daily legs to 60 miles, but had little luck containing the athletes.

"It was just like 30 years ago," Evans recalled during a recent telephone interview. "We all took care of each other," says Evans, a novice cyclist who still prefers running to biking but who trained for three months to get in shape for the ordeal. "It was incredible to see kids smiling and happy and not crying and scared." □

WOMEN'S MEMORIAL NEARS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Diane Carlson Evans is hoping for a great turnout at the fifth anniversary celebration of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, scheduled for Veterans Day, Nov. 11, in Washington, D.C.

Scheduled events include a wreath-laying ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a candlelight ceremony at the Vietnam Women's Memorial nearby, a storytelling session at the memorial, and a rock 'n' roll reunion and dance to benefit the women's memorial.

The Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St.,



THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S MEMORIAL

NORMAN SHAW

N.W., is headquarters for the event, and a limited number of rooms at reduced rates have been secured, Evans says. To receive the special rate, call (202) 234-0700, or, toll-free, 800 THE-OMNI no later than Oct. 11, and be sure to mention you're affiliated with the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project.

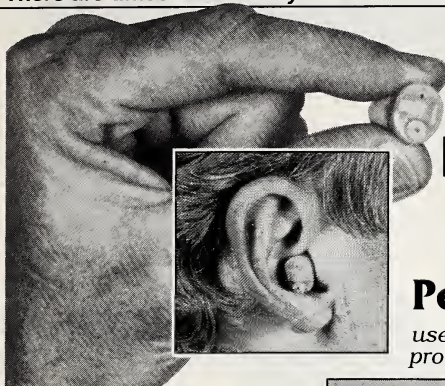
To buy a ticket to the reunion and

benefit, send a check for \$20 per person to the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project, #302, 2001 S. Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009, and make check payable to the VWMP.

Legionnaires might consider sponsoring a woman veteran who served in Vietnam from their Post or the local area so they can celebrate the memorial's message of hope and healing.

For more information, call the VWMP at (202) 328-7253; or send your e-mail message to: VWMP-PDC@aol.com.

There are times when everyone would like a little extra volume to enhance their hearing!



by Martin Howard

For the last couple of years, I've constantly had to ask people to repeat what they just said to me... I've turned up the volume on the TV so loud that everyone in the house complains... and my wife and children tell me that I'm speaking too loud.

Naturally, I've denied everything. I didn't want to admit I knew that I was having a slight hearing problem. I was hoping it would go away, all by itself, without doing anything about it! But, deep down inside, I knew I needed a little extra help in the hearing department, and lately, I needed this extra help more and more.

My wife was so tired of me asking her to either speak louder or repeat everything she said. We were having arguments over my hearing. Finally, she insisted that I get some help. She told me to buy a hearing aid.

Sure, just what I need. A bulky, ugly, ill-fitting and heavy hearing aid sitting behind my ear. And, the darn thing will probably rub the skin off my ear too!

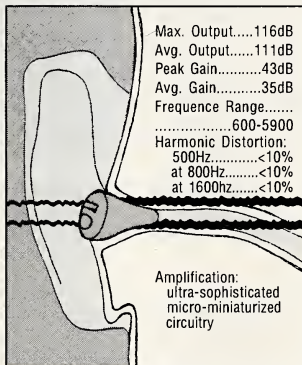
She laughed at me. No, it's nothing like that - science and technology have revolutionized the audio industry. The product I'm talking about is called **MaxiSound**. It's a personal amplifier and is very different from the hearing aids you are describing.

MaxiSound is so small and compact that it fits inside the ear canal (it's almost invisible). There are no wires, no behind the ear devices and it doesn't cost a fortune. Not only that, but its super sensitive circuitry is designed to maximize your natural ability to hear sounds*. **MaxiSound** can make speech louder, and the sound is crystal clear, pure and natural.

MaxiSound worked so well for me that I am now marketing them direct to the consumer. And, I know that they'll work for you too! *It's great to be able to hear the TV clearly again.*

It's So Small It's Almost Invisible *In the Ear...* **MaxiSound™** **Personal Sound Amplifier**

uses sophisticated micro-miniaturized circuitry to provide affordable, in-the-ear sound amplification



Let me tell you a little more about them. They are ideal for amplification of faint sounds like distant lectures or outdoor wildlife. Each amplifier features an individual on/off and volume control. Its one-size-fits-all is comfortable and comes with a replaceable soft rubber tip, 300 hour battery, cleaning tool, storage pouch and instructions. **MaxiSound** is made in the USA, and is comparable to other sound enhancement systems that retail for up to \$1000.00. Separate maintenance kit includes: 4 replace-

*Not sold for use as a medical device. Consult a hearing specialist if you have a serious hearing problem. Individual experiences may vary depending on severity of hearing loss.

"After seeing your ad in the newspaper, I decided to take a chance on your product. Imagine my surprise when I first tried your sound amplification product and it worked great. The amplification seemed to balance out the hearing between my left and right ear. I am completely satisfied with both the sound quality and amplification of your MaxiSound product."

Dr. George T. Stallings

ment tips, 4 batteries, extra cleaning tool and detailed care instructions.

Your satisfaction is guaranteed or return for a full refund of purchase price (less P&H). Because we work directly with the primary source, you can purchase a pair (left and right) **MaxiSounds** for less than one of our competitor's units. *That's guaranteed.*

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| Impact resistance | Average | Excellent | Excellent |
| Feedback | Frequent | Limited | limited |
| Telephone use | Yes | Yes | Excellent |
| Retail price: each | \$1000. | \$299.85 | \$149.95 |
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LOUISIANA LAWMAN GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND

VETERANS have a special affinity for the devotion to duty law enforcement officers exhibit on the job. Like veterans, law enforcement officers perform an often dangerous and unpleasant job in order to safeguard their countrymen.

The American Legion recognizes this devotion to duty by naming a Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The 1998 recipient is Deputy Sheriff Earl P. "Pete" McDonald Jr., of Point a la Hache, La. His selection was announced during the National Executive Committee's Spring Meetings in Indianapolis, May 6-7.

"Like veterans, law enforcement officers are special people who willingly accepted challenges, and often danger, in the name of serving a higher interest," said George Wehrli, chairman of the National Law

and Order Committee. "All the regional winners proved outstanding examples of devotion to public safety and service to their communities," added Wehrli.

Selection is based on the nominee's selfless dedication to community service and the exhibition of a versatility above and beyond their assigned duties. Professional achievements and acts of heroism also are included in the selection process, said Wehrli.

McDonald helped organize the Plaquemines Parish Junior Deputy Organization in 1985, which offered area youth field trips and classes on bicycle safety, gun safety, fingerprinting and other law enforcement tasks.

McDonald was assigned to the parish's Crime Prevention Unit in 1987 and began an active, successful program offering safety tips to homeowners.



OFFICER MATERIAL Earl P. "Pete" McDonald doesn't just enforce the law. He reaches out to all groups, especially children, to teach respect for the spirit as well as the letter of the law.

He also worked with senior citizen and youth groups, addressing their special concerns and offering his advice on how all citizens can avoid being crime targets. Local Legionnaires, civic leaders, clergy and government officials have praised McDonald's works as

a model of dedicated caring for his community.

The Louisiana law enforcement officer won't have to travel far to receive his award. McDonald will be honored on stage during a plenary session of The American Legion's 80th National Convention, scheduled Sept. 4-10 in New Orleans.

The 1998 regional winners are:

New England Region—Sgt. Michael A. Corpin, Oneida, N.Y.

Central Region—Sgt. Joseph Aiello Jr., Upper Marlboro, Md.

Southern Region—Deputy Sheriff Earl P. McDonald Jr., Point a la Hache, La.

Midwest Region—Investigator Michael T. Riley, Lincoln, Neb.

Western Region—Sgt. Randy Hoffmaster, Los Angeles, Calif. □

PNC HARRY G. WILES, 82, PASSES AWAY

KANSAS has produced numerous distinguished Legionnaires, including Past National Commanders Ralph T. O'Neil, 1930-31; and Harry W. Colmery, 1936-37. A third Kansan in that company, Harry G. Wiles, 82, St. John, Kan., answered the final call on June 2.

PNC Wiles, a member of Post 1, Topeka, was elected National Commander on Aug. 21, 1975, at the Legion's 57th National Convention in Minneapolis. A lawyer and civic leader, Wiles was a Japanese language specialist for the U.S. Navy during World War II, and left service in 1946 as a Lt. (j.g.), USNR.

His involvement with The



WILES

American Legion began that same year, when some local comrades at Post 53 in St. John informed him he'd better get over to the Post because, as one said, "We elected you commander last week!" Wiles took it from

there, working his way up to Department commander, 1970-71. He also served as Department vice commander and judge advocate.

Wiles served as National vice commander, 1971-72. He also held positions as vice chairman of the National Security and Americanism councils; chairman and vice chairman of the National Overseas Graves Decoration Trust; and vice chairman of the Distinguished Guests Committee.

In addition, he was a member of the National Legislative Council; Advisory Committee to the National Commander and National Security Commission, and was an ex-officio member of

the National Finance Commission.

A native of Macksville, Kan., Wiles earned business and law degrees from the University of Kansas, where he also excelled in athletics as captain of the track team. After service in the Navy he returned to St. John, where in addition to his American Legion affiliation he served as city attorney, police judge and Stafford County attorney. He later served in high state offices, with the Kansas Corporation and Highway commissions. He also was active in state politics and was the Democrat candidate for governor in 1964, losing the race by less than a one percent margin. □



"I look out for veterans," says Fred Moore, a LegionPlus expert with more than 40 years of insurance experience. Fred served as a T4 in the Army's 7th Infantry Division in Korea. His concern is typical of the help you can expect when you call The American Legion's CHAMPUS/Tricare Standard hotline.

CHAMPUS will pay as much as it's ever going to pay today - but your needs will increase

Here's how to keep cutting-edge care within your reach.

By S.J. McKenna

I imagine you're sick, with something seriously wrong with your heart or lungs. As a Legionnaire, you may have known war. But the war you're fighting now is inside your own body. Your enemy is within you. What do you do? Where do you go? And how can you improve your odds?

Without financial help, your choices are limited. With it, the door swings open to medicine's best weapons: nuclear-imaging and computerized axial tomography, cell transplants and cancer-killing taxoids.

If your body is in hand-to-hand combat, your mind is literally running a marathon. What treatment do I need? How much does it cost? Who will pay for it?

Promises under fire. The government vowed health care to you for as long as you needed it. The reality is budget cuts

are jeopardizing that promise. That's why The American Legion has approved its own CHAMPUS/Tricare supplement, called "LegionPlus." LegionPlus plugs the holes left by CHAMPUS. It's yours as a member benefit and an outstanding value.

Help is in your corner. LegionPlus has specially-trained CHAMPUS/Tricare experts standing by, ready to help you. Your

calls are always free. And because of LegionPlus, your family won't become "second victims," if you get sick, by mortgaging everything to get the best care for you.

Now is the time to prepare. It makes sense to plan NOW, while you still can. LegionPlus pays 100% of your covered excess medical charges (specialists rarely accept CHAMPUS as payment in full). But

you have a choice. You can stretch your budget with the LegionPlus Saver option, which pays 80% of excess charges for a slightly lower premium. BOTH plans cover prescription drugs, including mail order pharmacies.

Exclusively for Legionnaires. There are no questions or health exams. LegionPlus is yours, as long as you're eligible for CHAMPUS/Tricare and a member of The American Legion. Your health doesn't matter. (Pre-existing conditions are subject to certain limitations.)

What Legionnaires are saying...

"CHAMPUS doesn't cover everything. And who knows? Tomorrow I may have to use it. LegionPlus was a little cheaper than most. And that's one reason why I got it."

— Larry Dethorne
Pine, ID

"I'm healthy. In fact, I can count on one hand how many times I've seen a doctor. But a supplement is a smart thing to have."

— Kenneth Corby
Runnels, IA

"I'm thoroughly pleased with the service. And it's the most reasonable cost I've found anywhere."

— John Wolff
Tucson, AZ

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ARMY

- 1st Arm'd Amphib Bn, FNF/PAC (Korea) #23634
- 1st Arm'd Div Bth Inf 2nd Bn Co G (42-44) #24002
- 1st Cav Div, 229th Assault Helicopter Bn #23377
- 1st Inf Div, 1st Engr (C) Bn #21764
- 2nd AAA Grp, HQ Btry #14714
- 2nd Arm'd Div, 94th AAA AW Bn (Sp) #23307
- 2nd Inf Div, 23rd Rgt, ATK&M Pltn, HQ Co (Korea) #18918
- 2nd Inf Div, 9th Rgt, L Co (Korea, 51-53) #16814
- 3rd Arm'd Cav Rgt, Camp Pickett, 53 #21849
- 3rd Inf Div, 30th Inf Rgt, Anti-Tank Co (WWII) #23382
- 41st/506th Helicopter Co & 152nd Main Co #18221
- 4th Arm'd Div, 41st Inf, 2nd Rifle Bn, Co A (Ulm, Ger, 51-59) #23052
- 53rd Air Inf, "Red Diamond/Winged Victory" Chorus #22411
- 5th Arm'd Div Assn (WWII) #15428
- 6th Engrs, C Co (WWII) #16259
- 7th/5th Evac Hospitals (Fort Du Sable, Pa.) #20890
- 7th Army, 6th Missile Bn, 562nd Arty, HQ Btry #22409
- 7th Cav Rgt, Hvy Mortar Co (Korea, 50-51) #22348
- 7th Inf Div, 57th FA Bn #15765
- 8th Army, 73rd Engr Cmn Bn, HQ, A/B/C cos #24005
- 8th Inf Div, 3rd Bn, Co C #22476
- 8th Arm'd Div, 2nd Tank Bn #11035
- 10th Mtn Div, 504th FA Bn (PK, WWII) #13959
- 12th Evac Hospital/212th MASH (WWII) (Wu/Bosnia) #23713
- 13th Arm'd Div Assn #10409
- 14th Cav Grp, 15th/32nd Cav Recon Sqdrns (WWII) #12487
- 15/17th Cav Recon Sqdrns (WWII) #16382
- 17th A/B Div Assn #16519
- 20th Arm'd Div, 27th Tank Bn, B Co #21853
- 21st Engr (C) Bn (52-53) #10571
- 21st Gen Hospital #16866
- 24th Inf Div, 21st Rgt, B and 34th Rgt, 3rd Bn (Korea, 50-53) #19506
- 24th Inf Div, 26th AAA (AW) Sp Bn, A Btry (Japan/Korea, 49-53) #11114
- 24th Inf Div Co #21517
- 25th Inf Div, 27th Rgt, B Co (55-56) #13132
- 26th Inf Div, 104th Rgt Assn #11637
- 27th AAA AW Btry (Fin/Benning) #22718
- 27th Inf Div, 106th FA Assn (WWI-WWII) #16597
- 27th Inf Div Assn (incl att'd unit) #16534
- 28th Inf Div (WWII) (51-53) #16555
- 28th Inf Div, 103rd Engr (C) Bn, A-D Cos (WWII-Korea) #13710
- 31st Trans Bn, B Co (Munich, 58-82) #20434
- 32nd Inf Div, 127th Rgt, B Co (WWII) #16717
- 32nd Inf Div Nat Assn #2197
- 34th Gen Hospital (Landstuhl, Ger, 51-53) #20547
- 34th Gen Hospital (Orleans, Fr, 53-87) #13996
- 34th Inf Div, 135th Rgt, 3rd Bn, I/K/L/M/HQ Co (WWII) #15827
- 36th Inf Div, 142nd Rgt, B Co #21133
- 37th Inf Div Vets Assn #15753
- 37th Div Co Assn (WWII) #10029
- 40th Inf Div, 40th Rgt Co (Korea) #19689
- 40th Inf Div, 578th Engr Bn, HQ Co, Assault Pltn (Korea, 52-53) #23995
- 41st Inf Div Assn #15796
- 44th Inf Div, 119th Med C Co #22596
- 44th Inf Div (all units) #13887
- 45th Inf Div, 120th Engr (C) Bn, H&S Co (WWII, Korea) #22515
- 45th Inf Div, 27th Rgt #15902
- 47th Inf Div, 27th Rgt, L Co (Thunderbirds, Korea) #22636
- 45th Inf Div, 645th TD Bn (WWII) #15558
- 45th Med Amb Corps (WWII) #28429
- 46th Ord Mtn Co #1349
- 47th Inf Div, 135th Rgt, 2nd Bn, G Co (Korea) #13497
- 52nd Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #22479

- 58th Bomb Wing Assn 44041 442nd 462nd 468th Bomb Grps, B-29s #23961
- 62nd Sig Bn Co #22108
- 63rd Inf Div Assn, 253rd Rgt, F Co (WWII) #10335
- 67th Sig Bn, (WWII 43-46) #20832
- 68th Inf Div, 360th FA Bn, B Btry (WWII) #21861
- 70th Inf Div Assn (West Chap, WWII) #16521
- 70th Tank Bn Assn (WWII) #15672
- 71st Inf Div Assn #24000
- 72nd Hvy Tank Bn (Korea, 50-53) #22343
- 75th Inf Div, 730th FA Bn (WWII) #16826
- 82nd A/B Div Assn (Vn) 30th Anniv Reunion #23984
- 82nd Inf Div, 325th Rgt, F Co #18984
- 85th Inf Div, 337th Rgt (WWII) #13802
- 85th Ord Depot Supply Co (41-45) #16072
- 86th Inf Div, 341st Rgt, 1st Bn, HQ Co (43-45) #13320
- 87th Arm'd Div Assn #15684
- 87th Inf Div, 549th AAA Bn (WWII) #15334
- 88th Inf Div, "Blue Devils" (SE Chap) #20427
- 89th Inf Div, 348th FA Bn #15427
- 92nd Sig Bn (WWII) #10333
- 93rd Chem Mortar Bn (WWII) #22590
- 94th AAA, D Btry (WWII) #16133
- 95th Med Gas Treatment Bn #10472
- 97th Inf Div, 322nd Med Bn #11068
- 97th Inf Div, 368th Rgt, E Co #15382
- 97th Inf Div, 387th Rgt, D Co (WWII) #16229
- 97th Inf Div, 389th FA Bn, C Btry (WWII) #10719
- 97th Signal Bn (WWII) #16584
- 100th Inf Div, 399th Rgt, Anti-Tank Co (IN Chap) #12217
- 101st Cav Grp, 101st/16th Recon Sqns (WWII) #15717
- 102nd AAA AW Bn (AT) #15630
- 102nd AAA AW Bn #15879
- 103rd Inf Div, Sig Co WWII #14063
- 106th AAA AW Bn, D Btry (WWII) #30039
- 110th Engr (C) Bn (Pacific) #15277
- 112th Armored, 2nd Bn #21880
- 114th Evac Hospital (WWII) #15310
- 116th AAA Gun Bn, A-D Btries #12213
- 118th AAA AW Bn #19348
- 121st Inf Rgt, 1 Co (WWII) #16316
- 121st QM Car Co #16051
- 136th Trans Co (Red Headquarter) #21863
- 147 Amphib DUKW Bn, 829/3031/832nd Truck Cos #19073
- 151st Inf Rgt (Nat Guard, WWII-VN) #19848
- 160th Engr (C) Bn (WWII) #13144
- 163rd Gen Hospital (WWII) #14209
- 164th Inf Rgt Assn #14419
- 172nd Inf, Hvy Mortar & Tank Co Bn #15136
- 174th MP Bn (FI Sheridan, 50-52) #18972
- 175th FA Bn, B Btry #16532
- 176th/228th/357th FA Bn #16251
- 183rd Chem Serv Pltn #13450
- 187th Ord Co (WWII) #14199
- 188th Engr (C) Bn #14239
- 193rd FA Bn (1st Bn, 108th FA Bn) #11082
- 194th FA Bn Battery (C) #23967
- 200th QM Gas Sup Co #21867
- 202nd Engr, B Co #22414
- 214th AAA Gun Bn (WWII) #11114
- 214th Chem Serv Co #16563
- 224th AAA S/L Bn, C Btry (46) #21008
- 225th Signal Operations Co (WWII) #23637
- 228th Arty, B Btry (WWII) #23255
- 243rd FA Bn (WWII) #15654
- 262nd QM Bakery Co #20113
- 273rd FA Bn (WWII) #10688
- 303rd Sig Bn (ETO, WWII) #12462
- 309th Ord Mtn Co #20796
- 315th Sig Bn, HQ, Koenigsstuhl Radio Station (Heidelberg, Ger, 54-55) #23988
- 354th MP Bn #23624
- 361st Engr Const Bn #16142
- 379th AAA Bn #10465
- 391st/392nd Med Collect Cos, 61st Med Bn #18418
- 395th AAA AW Bn #20114
- 395th Inf, H Co #16325
- 423rd AAA, D Btry (WWII) #14768
- 443rd AAA AW Bn #21778
- 473rd Inf Div, 435th AAA AW Bn #10346
- 479th Med Amb Corps (WWII) #13752
- 481st AAA Bn (42-45) #16174
- 485th Dump Tr Co (Korea, 53-54) #23993
- 503rd MP Bn (C) #13813
- 503rd PRC/Trct (SW Chap) #20730
- 504th MP Assn #17787
- 512th Engr Light Platoon #15653
- 512th MP Field Arty Bn #15922
- 529th MP Honor Guard (85-89) #15567
- 529th Sig Bn Co (Okinawa/Korea, 44) #13474

- 534th AAA Bn, 8 Btry (WWII) #10363
- 534th E&SR #15924
- 536th Amtrac Bn (WWII) #15897
- 537th Engr (LP) Co #20758
- 542nd Ord Hm FA #22426
- 548th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #20778
- 548th AAA Bn 758th Gen 25th Sig Det Early 548th AAA AW Bn, C Btry (WWII) #20715
- 550th AAA AW Bn (WWII) #22281
- 555th AAA Bn (WWII) #13944
- 565th/574th SAW Bns #16270
- 574th/555th SAW Bns #16115
- 581st AAA AW Bn, C Btry (WWII) #25641
- 582nd/641st Ord Ammo Cos (WWII) #11256
- 583rd Amb Co, (WWII) #12225
- 594th Ev & SR (all units) #13887
- 597th Engr (all units)
- 608th ODAM Bn (WWII) #20715
- 624th FA Observer Bn #13246
- 625th Engr, LC Co (WWII) #11060
- 635th TD Bn (WWII) #21873
- 648th Topo Engr Grp (SWPA WWII) #20183
- 652nd Engr Bn (Topo) #22293
- 679th Engr Topo/257th Engr Litho Repro Pltn #22064
- 691st FA Bn #15734
- 691st FA Bn #20187
- 710th Tank Bn (WWII) #15393
- 712th Tank Bn (WWII) #15590
- 712th Trob, Co C (WWII/Korea) #15463
- 760th Tank Bn (WWII) #16550
- 774th FA Bn #15583
- 780th AAA AW Bn #21162
- 781st Tank Bn (WWII) #11109
- 790th QM Reclamation & Maint (Korea, 52-53) #20651
- 796th Mtn Bn (incl 53/64/65 MP Cos, Vienna, Austria, WWII) #12304
- 808th TD Bn (WWII) #20264
- 821 MP CD (WWII) #22953
- 821st TD Bn (WWII) #13039
- 822nd TD Bn (WWII) #15247
- 829th/6552nd/215th Sig Serv Assn #19499
- 843rd AAA AW Bn (CB) #16444
- 843rd Avn Engr Bn #16345
- 864th Dir Co (WWII) #10791
- 872nd A/B Engr Avn Bn (WWII) #16428
- 879th Engr Bn #15942
- 97th QM Serv Co (6th Engr Spec Bde) #15263
- 974th Engr Maint Co #16308
- 990th Ord Base Depot Co #22000
- 1395th Engr Bn (WWII) #16516
- 1874th Engr Avn Bn (WWII) #23877
- 188th Engrs (WWII) #21882
- 1952nd Truck Co (WWII) #16426
- 342nd Ord Co #24004
- 3708 QM Truck Co (incl 41st QM & 3708 QM from Ft Jackson, SC) #23985
- 3010/232/85th Dir Base Dept, 3106 Ord BAVM Co (Leghorn, Italy 44-47) #13642
- ADC #9 (Aug 47, Ft Benning, GA) #21958
- Army Nuclear Power Program #15499
- ASA 351st Comm Recon Co #11504
- Camp Lockett-Mitchell Convalescent Hospital (WWII) #21883
- CBI War Dog Det (WWII) #15573
- Chosin Few, Golden Gate Chapter (Korea, 50) #14783
- CID Agents Assn, #10002
- Fukushima Military Gov'tment #22537
- Graves Registration/Military Affairs (all units) #23311
- HC 4th Inf Rgt (Ladd Air, Alaska) #23974
- OCS 251st Graduates (Nantuxam, FI) #16338
- OCS Sig Corps Assn #11671
- Replacement Training Center, Arms Warehouse (FI Knox, 46-48) #23992
- Ret US Army Reserve-NCRs #19814
- Ryukus Army Hosp (Okinawa, 50-53) #18914
- Society of the 18th Engr Bde (all eras) #23743
- VI Corps, HQ & HQ Co (WWII) #12550

NAVY

- 1st Lt. Dept. (New London, CT, 48-50) #17760
- 11th NCB (WWII) #17436
- 31st NCB Spec #16953
- 34th NCB (42-45) #17453
- 35th NCB #17595
- 56th NCB #14521
- 59th NCB "Fifty Niner Assn" (WWII) #18497
- 96th NCB (58/59/61/63/1049/3050 Spec Det) #1576
- 105th NCB (WWII) #18140
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Beach Master Unit 1, Coronado, CA #13066
Bomb & Mine Disp Assn, explosive ordnance dis-
posal #23950
CAG-15 #23604
CAG-3 (USS Leyte CV-32, all sqdrons, 49-53)
#17992
CASU-31 (NAS Hilo, HI, WWII) #14517
CATU-Dam Neck, VA, (45-48) #19106
CBMU-592 (Eniwetok, WWII) #23060
DESRON-8 USS Wainwright/Trippe/Buck/Rhine-
bristol (WWII) #18171
Ground Control Approach Assn #22127
LCS (L) 101 "Mighty Midways" (WWII) #11134
LCS (L) 111 #17145
LCS (L) 32 (54) #18654
LCPV/LCM boat crews #23346
LSM-117 #22622
LSM-238 (44-46) #13988
LSM(LSMR) PA Chapter #23617
LSM(R) 196 #12976
LST-78 #17360
LST-292 #17177
LST-41 #19101
LST-446 #22923
LST-587 #21950
LST-594 #13407
LST 635 #23939
LST-656 (WWII) #21989
LST-713 #11223
LST-809 #11513
LST-919 #14748
LST-930 (H) #22435
LST (H) #51 #18321
MCB-2 (1950-58) #14671
MCB-74 (MI) #10593
NAS Atlanta, LITS Staff #21899
NAS Oceana, control tower crews (51-56) #18219
NASC Dept Assn #14476
NAVJCMINTA, Iceland #19373
Navy Section Base, Southport, NC (42-43)
#21903
NRDC China #19596
NRDC: U of MD #10039
NTS Farangit Trainers (midwest) #18110
Operation High-Jump, South Pole Expd (45-47)
#14634
Opticalmen/Instrumentmen #14537
Pit Bomber Sqdn VP/PB-18 (WWII) #17874
PC-125/558 #10856
PCB-1390 (WWII) #14622
PCL Sqdn 17 #22402
Post Station Port Blake (Bainbridge Island, WA)
#12790
RDC Frpm: U of Louisville #22994
RDC, U of NM (June, 46) #17847
RDT Great Lakes Co 46 (46) #18179
Salvage Divers Reunited #18347
SC-1280 (WWII) #21914
SC-541 #14731
Silver Eagles Assn (former NAPS) #41206
Special Augmented Hospital #8 #10992
Tordemones's Mates Assn #18364
T22-22 (WWII) #18593
USS Abraham Lincoln SSN-602 #20337
USS Albatross AE-13 #23996
USS Albert T Harris DE-447 #20995
USS Alchiba AKA/AXS-6 #30101
USS American Legion APT-17 (WWII) #17983
USS Arizona BB-39 Assn #17929
USS Arthur Middleton APT-25 (WWII) #17062
USS Bache DD-470 #21176
USS Belknap AVG-3/APD-34/DD-251 #10937
USS Benning DD-662 #10089
USS Bond AM-155 (MINDIV 29, 43-45) #11579
USS Bradford DD-45 #17939
USS Brookes AO-4 (46) #17414
USS Browsers APT-140 #23156
USS Butte AE-27 #21410
USS Canby AM-155 (MINDIV 29 43-45) #11582
USS Cape Esperance CVE-88 (WWII-Korea)
#14922
USS Gloucester CVE-90 #23810
USS Capitaine AM-155 (MINDIV 29, 43-45)
#18115

USS Caravan AM-157 (MINDIV 29, 43-45)
#11690
USS Cavalon AM-158 (MINDIV 29, 43-45) #11580
USS Cavalier APT-37 (incl CG, 46-58) #20334
USS Chaunoy DD-667 #18109
USS Chilton AP/PA-138 (incl Mar/Army, 42-74)
#22840
USS Chippola AO-63 (all years) #13851
USS Col SS-224 #10288
USS Collett DD-370 #17975
USS Corbie DE-438 (WWII) #11097
USS Cowles DE-632/DMS-39 #18066
USS Cromwell DE-1014 #1755
USS Cumberland Sound AV-17 (Bikini, 44-45)
#22009
USS Cushing DD-55/376/797/985 Assn #17715
USS Cutler SS-478 #13486
USS Delmos AK-76 (WWII) #22794
USS Dempsey DE-25 #20338
USS Detroux AM-341 (WWII-Korea) #20408
USS Donnell DE-56/IX-182 #14723
USS Drayton DD-366 (36-45) #18560
USS Drew APA-162 (WWII) #18574
USS Eberle DD-430 #11125
USS Edward McDonald DE-403 #23982
USS Eldridge DE-773 #23513
USS Epping Forest LSC-4/MCS-7 (COMINFILDT 1,
MINDIV 31-33, 43-58) #19616
USS Florence Nightingale AP-30 #18227
USS Forthright AKA-5 Assn #14993
USS Fowler DE-222 #17532
USS Frederick Funston APA-89 (WWII) #10339
USS Geneva APA-86 #22541
USS George E Badger DD-196/AVD-3/APD-33
#13186
USS George F Elliott AP-13/105 (East Coast Chapl)
#21400
USS Gilligan DE-508 #21908
USS Grampus SS-323 #19054
USS Gravelle APA-771 #17674
USS Guadacanal CVE-60/Task Grp 22.3 (capture of
U-505) #17727
USS Haleakala AS-25 #23997
USS Hamul AAD-20/AMC-30 (41-42) #18527
USS Harry Lee APT-20 (WWII) #22586
USS Hill DE-141 #20849
USS Hornet VF-115 USS Bunker Hill VF-18 #10125
USS Hue City CG-66 Commissioning (incl Mar)
#21910
USS Intrepid CVL-107 "Hogan's Goat" #13958
USS Intrepid CV-11 1943 - 1974 (Carolinas Chapl)
tormer crew members #23640
USS Intrepid CV-11 Southeast Chapter (1943-
1974) #24005
USS Intrepid CV/CA/CVA-11 (KY/TN) chapters, 43-
74 #23655
USS Intrepid CV/CA/CVA-11 Assn (OH/Mi) chapters,
43-74 #18956
USS James K. Polk SSN-645 Alumni Assn
#23994
USS Jamestown ADP-3 #23980
USS John R Pierce DD-753 (44-74) #18303
USS Jupiter AKA-43 (WWII) #13826
USS Jupiter AVS-8 #22126
USS Kanawha AD-1 #17883
USS Kenton APA-122 #10684
USS Kentland CVE-98 (WWII) #17423
USS Lauderdale APT-179 #11636
USS Leary DD-158 (WWII) #12264
USS Leo AKA-60 (WWII) #23910
USS Lewis Hancock DD-675 #12266
USS Leyte CV-32 Assn (incl air corps, 46-59)
#18897
USS Luineta ATF-156 #12112
USS Mauna Kea DE-22 (VN, 66-71) #19173
USS McCalla DD-488 #14683
USS McDougall DD-358/AG-126 (WWII) #18611
USS McKee DD-575 #18191
USS Newman DE-206/APA-1 Assn #22734
USS Michell DE-43 #17755
USS Mobile CL-63 (incl Mar) #18011
USS Mount Baker AE-4 #20485
USS Mount Katmai AE-16 #22736
USS Newman DE-206/APA-1 #13777
USS Newman K Perry DD-883 #14477
USS Noble AKA-218 #23973
USS Norfolk DL-1 #13419
USS Notable MSO-460 #13475
USS O'Daypex AM-155 #12264
USS Paracutini, AE-18 (Korea, 50-53) #13621
USS Pensacola CA-24 #18369
USS PGM-1 TOR #13517
USS Phoon AAR-3 #12058
USS Pickens DD-688 (WWII) #17710
USS Piedmont AD-17 #17438
USS Pierce APA-50 (WWII) #21830

USS PMA-223 (WWII) #18196
USS Plymouth PG-W #21230
USS Pollack SSN-603 #18743
USS Pella (DD-379) #23903
USS Prime AM-18 #21270
USS Quillback SS-424/USS Picuda SS-382
#21246
USS Ralph Talbot DD-390 (incl DESRON-4 ships)
#17820
USS Reeves DE-156/APD-52, USS Donnell DE-56
#17478
USS Rinehart DE-196 #18058
USS Ringgold DD-500 #18328
USS Rittenberg AKA-99 #18157
USS Rivas DD-192 #20811
USS Rudy AM-380 (56-demon) #12136
USS S-13 (SS-118) #17772
USS Sander CVE-117 #22309
USS Sander ATF-151 #18420
USS San Marcos LST-25 #18911
USS Sarge SSN-83 #19564
USS Sawley DD-465 (WWII, 42-46) #19618
USS Sawo Island CVE-78/VC-27 #28277
USS Seavey DD-239 #900
USS Seabee AOG-21 #17757
USS Shamrock Bay CVE-84/air wings (41-46)
#18083
USS Shelton DD-790 #10477
USS Shewen DE-246 (43-48) #30076
USS Sioux Dakota SS-57 #18438
USS Spica AK-16 (WWII) #20682
USS Stephen Potter DD-538 #17310
USS Storm King APA-71 #21963
USS Surticak AE-21 #19110
USS Texas SS-35 #18526
USS Topeka CL-67 (44-49) #17582
USS Torrance AKA-76 #17533
USS Tuttle SS-421 #13103
USS Tullahoma LKA-112 (56-80) #19617
USS Twinning DD-640 (43-71) #18325
USS Van Valkenburgh DD-658 (WWII) #12974
USS Vesale DD-DDR-876 (WWII, 45-76) #10041
USS Walter SS-565 DPA sub #13828
USS Walker DD-506 OAE #17511
USS Walter B. Cobb APT-106 (45-57) #181441
USS Warhawk APA-168 (ship's co) #11739
USS Warwick AKA-99 (WWII) #17852
USS Wasatch AAG-9 (WWII) #18666
USS Wayne AKA-54 #18363
USS West Point AP-22 (WWII) #12916
USS Wharton AP-7 Assn #10928
USS Willem DE-22 #17824
USS Wilmette DE-397 #21190
USS William B Cole DE-441 #20679
USS Wolfe DE-305 (all yrs) #11066
USS Winston AKA-49 #23991
USS Yorktown Engineers CV/CA/CVS-10 (incl
Mar, 58-63) #21623
V-5 Prgm, 6th Bn: Wooster, OH (43) #21249
VA-23, Attack Squadron (Black Knights) #14934
VA-66 (60-63) #13270
VB-19 (USS Lexington CV-16, 43-44) #13078
VC-42 (WWII) #17319
VC-6 Navy Sqdn (WWII) #13251
VC-83 Comp Sqdn #22471
VF-54 #18490
VF-14/VB-102 VPB-102 (WWII) #17434
VP-6 (Korea) #10367
VP-6A #18078
VP-12 #18163
VP-201 (WWII) #22379
VR-21 (all yrs) #22641
VT-305/VB-305 (PTD, WWII) #11584
VT-3 USS Yorktown, (44-45) #23816
VTS USS Yorktown (41-42) #21402
YMS-183 #23053
YV-239 (WWII) #17465

ARMY FORCES

3rd Hospital Grp, 7510th Hospital (Wimpole Pk, Eng)
#15058
5th AF, 371th TC Grp, HQ/41st Sqdn (WWII 42-
45) #19226
7th Bomb Wing, "Black Knights of the Mekong"
(64-69) #11380
8th AF, 3rd SAd (Watson, Eng, WWII) #16803
8th AF, 479th Fr Grp, 436th Fr Sqdn (WWII, Korea)
#16847
11th Postal Sqdn (Oknawa, 55-57) #22422
11th Radar Bombing Squadron, 7th Det (45-57)
#21554
12th AF 36th Motor Veh Sqdn at 36th FTR Bomb
Wing (Rushy-Born, 51-55) #23043
15th AF, 449th Bomb Grp (H) "Flying Horsemen"
(Italy, WWII) #10650

15th TC Sqdn, pilots/nav (55-59) #21717
18th Fr Bomb Wing Assn #16843
20th/81st Tac Fr Wing (Eng) #21391
31st Fr Grp, 309th Fr Sqdn/41st Pursuit Sqdn
#1871
31st Fr Wing, 307th Fr Sqdn (Korea) #22530
36th Air Police Sqdn (Japan, 50-55) #14597
49th Fr Sqdn, 14th Fr Grp #20226
50th/50th F13 #13127
60th Fr Bomb Sqdn (Korea, 55-57) #15177
61st Fr Wing "Werewolves" Assn (Korea)
#15068
100th Air Serv Sqdn #21844
100th Bomb Wing (Peace AFB) #20603
150th/7th NJANG (NJ Air Natl Guard) #20738
23-4 Weather Squadron (Korea, 55-57) #15177
303rd Air Retel Sqdn "Bernuda Bunch" #15119
311th Fr Wing (WWII)/Fr Bomb Sqdn (Korea)
#22899
371st Fr Grp, 405th Fr Sqdn (WWII) #21546
371st Fr Grp/Bomb Fr Sqdn #21847
42nd TC Wing, 935th/936th TC grps #20020
459th Fr Sqdn #21540
511th AC&W Grp, 611th/847th/848th sqdrons
(Japan, 47-54) #19053
552nd AEWAC Wing (55-12) Aircraft, McClellan
AFB, 55-75 #21005
580th/551st/582nd Air Resupply and Comm Serv
#15116
582nd Air Resupply Grp #21556
600th/81st Photo Sqdn (AFB #15170
824th Sec Pol Sqdn (71-73) #19238
902nd TC Grp, 732nd TCs, 81st TCS #15192
1383rd AACSS Sqdn (Ramsey AFB, PR) #23970
3080th Avn Depot Grp (Caribou AFB, ME 50-60)
#12241
3134th Ammo Sup Sqdn, (Chize Ammo Depot)
#23611
3565th USAF Recruiting Grp, Det #607 (Fresno,
CA, 54-60) #23621
355th Combat Crew Trng Sqdn (CCTS, 53-61)
#13952
6511th Test Grp Parachute #23978
Blackjacks Assn (53rd TCS/Airlift Sqdn) #19025
MISAWA (54-55) #19372
600th/81st Photo Sqdn (AFB #15170
Pilot Class SS-5 (Williams AFB) #24008
Raven Forward Air Controllers (Laos) #23976
Sampon AFV Apts Assn (51-51) #14927
Thailand Airborne Assn (55-12) Aircraft, McClellan
AFB in Thailand (all pers, Thailand, VN) #24001

ARMY AIR FORCES

3rd Air Base Grp (41-45) #16970
7th AF, 87th Airborne Sqdn (WWII) #10706
8th AF, 35th Bomb Grp (H) Assn (WWII) #16819
9th AF, 42nd Fr Grp, 436th Fr Sqdn (WWII, Korea)
#16847
13th AF Vets Assn #22748
14th AF, 484th Bomb Grp, 49th Bomb Wing
"Pathfinders" (Italy, WWII) #14044
21st/22nd TC Sqdrons (teacher members) #1773
23rd Acad. Sqdn, AAF Tech School Sqdms (42-
46) #21888
30th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #16829
38th Bomb Grp Assn (WWII) #16805
39th Fr Sqdn (WWII) #16999
60th Fr Grp, 432nd Fr Grp, 436th Fr Sqdn
61st Tac Airlift Sqdn, "Green Hornets" (42-present)
#21096
63rd AAF Flying Training Det (Douglas, GA, 41-44)
#16750
70th Fr Sqdn "White Knights" (42) #12774
79th Fr Grp Assn, 85th/86th/87th Fr Sqdrons
(WWII) #23099
80th Fr Grp "Burma Banshees" (CBI, WWII)
#16845
81st Air Force Sqdn (WWII) #11587
89th TC Grp, 24/25/26/30/31 Sqdrons (Bergstrom
FL) #16582
106th Cav Grp (annual buildup) #16370
140th Intelligence Co (46) & 8th AFSM Rpt
#20750
21st Air Force Group (WWII) #18871
312nd Depot Repair Sqdn #15130
314th TC Grp, 61st TC Sqdn (WWII) #16968
316th TC Grp #14286
319th TC Sqdn, HQ 2311-314th sqdrons (WWII)
#16847
39th Air Serv Sqdn #23987
39th Bomb Grp (H) (Kimblenton, Eng, WWII)
#16770
394th Bomb Grp (MI 8-26) (WWII) #20223
398th Sig Cn (H) (WWII) #16851
417th Night Fr Sqd (WWII) #23084
433rd Troop Carrier Grp Assn (all sqdrons, WWII)

#13312

455th Bomb Grp (H) Assn (Italy, WWII) #22791
 458th Bomb Grp (VH) #20631
 474th Fir Grp, 428th Fir Sqdn (WWII) #20805
 529th Fir Sqdn (CBI, WWII) #12427
 585th Bomb Sqdn #16746
 780th Bomb Sqdn (H) 465th Bomb Grp #23979
 813th TC Cnd (Sedalia MO) #12748
 909th QM Co, Det 14 #16745
 919th Engr Avn Maint Co, 6010th Engr Avn Co, SCARWAF (49-75)
 #10510
 1113th QM Co #21890
 1400th AAFBU, HQ Sqdn (ATC Eur Div, 43-46) #11762
 1409th AAFBU ATC Eur Div #17093
 ATC: SW Pacific (Australia, New Guinea, Philippines, WWII)
 #11378
 Avn Cadet Class 45-E (Luke Fld) #13578
 Avn Cadets (Birmingham 44) #13505
 Camp Cooke (41-46) #21839
 Class 43-H (Marfa, TX) #22403
 Glider Pilots Nat Assn (WWII) #20718
 Ocala Primary Flying School #21891
 P-47 Thunderbolt Pilots Assn (WWII) #16839
 Pilot Class 44-B (Columbus, MS) #12725

MARINES

1st Mar Div, Recon Co, HQ Bn (Korea, 50-53) #12636
 1st Spec Basic Crse (Quantico, VA) 1950 #23928
 3rd Mar Div, 12th Rgt, 4th Bn, L Btry (VH) #17099
 3rd MAW, VMSB-333 (WWII) #14471
 7th Engr Bn, Serv Co, III MAF #17177
 7th Mar Rgt, 3rd Bn, M Co (VN, 65-71) MIKE 3/7 Vietnam Assn
 #14430
 7th Serv Rgt, Motor Trans Co (WWII) #10163
 11th Det Bn (42-44) #14772
 Cold Weather Trng Bn (Korea) #22173
 FLSG-Alpha Bravo (all units, 66-70) #13923
 MAD-2 Assn (CA Chapt) #13366
 Mar Air Base Sqdn 1 (MAB-1) #20956
 Mar Air Warn Sqdn 11 (Kume Shima) #17134
 Mar Air Warn Sqdn 1/MGCIS-7/MACS-7 Assn #17190
 Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Assn. #17112
 Marine Security Guard Det, American Embassy, Paris #21894
 MCRD San Diego: Phn 1133 (Feb 69) #19155
 Mustang Assn (Active/Reserve/vets) #17209
 USS Huntington CL-107 (Mar det) #10796
 VMF (H) 541 "Balete Sqdn" #17165
 VMR 952 #24007
 VMSB-133 (incl MAG-24 units) #17113
 VMSB-931 (Eagle Mt Lake TX/Oak Grove, NC 44-45) #18998

MERCHANT MARINE

Pennsylvania Schoolship Assn #23360

COAST GUARD

165-foot cutter convoy (Nike/Pandora/Perseus/ Theis/Triton/Electra/Potomac) #14781
 165-foot cutter convoy grp (Daphne/Dione/Galatea/Hermes/Icarus/Nemesia) #14170
 165-foot cutter convoy grp (Argo/Ariadne/Atalanta/Aurora/Calypso/Cyane) #17021
 AGC Flagship Alliance WAGC 31-37 #22470
 All Coast Guard (grps/ret pers) #17013
 LCI (L) 93-96/319-322/324-326/348/350 (WWII) #19808
 LST-27 #17039
 LST-69 #20983
 Northeast NY Coast Guard Assn #13914
 USCGC Aquarius AKA-16 (incl Navy) #17018
 USCGC Duane WPG-33 #12568
 USCGC Ingham Assn W AGC 35 (36-88) #17067
 USCGC Spencer WPG-36/WHEC 905 #21002
 USS Bayfield APA-33 #13823
 USS Coos Bay AVP-25 #11590
 USS Coos Bay WAVP-376 #23551
 USS Falgout DE-324 (WWII) #17053
 USS Gullport PF-20 #17069
 USS Georges DE-320 #17020
 USS Meigs PF-67 (WWII) #11077
 USS Ramsden DE/DER-382/CGC WDE-482 #10808

MISCELLANEOUS

70th Military Government (Chinju, Korea, 45-46) #23989
 Atomic Vets Nat Assn (all test areas, 45-46) #11335
 CBI Vets Assn (Basha of IA) #21736
 Frankfurt High School Class of '47, Ger #23618
 George Field Assn (WWII) #12493
 Korean War Veterans (MN Chapt) #17265
 National ANTRAC Assn #24003
 Navy/Mar Para units (WWII) #17132
 St. Louis Last Man's Club #17248
 White House Medical Unit (72-93) #23623



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IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a reunion (see VETS' column) or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (see COMRADES in DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis. If a notice does not appear within six months of submission, please resubmit.

Data to pinpoint the Feb. 22, 1945, crash site of an RAAF Lancaster about four miles south of Kempen, Germany. Pilot's remains were retrieved, probably by units of the 5th Armored or 8th Inf., during Operation Grenade. A copy of "sheet 3, map reference A-08020" might be helpful. Contact Arthur Strange, 4 Bennett Place, Maroubra, New South Wales 2035, Australia. Phone: 2 9311 0530. Fax: 2 9311 4984.

Anyone who heard legendary violinist Isaac Stern in USO show during World War II. PBS film crew working on documentary about Stern. Contact Susan O'Connell of Film Odyssey, (202) 223-7981.

Anyone stationed at Camp Wolters Infantry Replacement Training Center at Mineral Wells, Texas, 1940-45 for history doctoral dissertation. Contact Jeffrey Pierce, 2942 Cypress, Harlingen, TX 77950 or e-mail jlpierce@aol.com.

Anyone who served on USAT Shawnee 1942-45, out of Ft. Mason, CA. Contact C.J. Sagle, 2003 Pembroke Cres. W., Independence, MO 64057.

Stars and Stripes personnel, any edition, all years. Contact Lyle McBride, The Stars and Stripes Association, 1510 W. Nottingham Ln., Anaheim, CA 92802.

Anyone who served in the 744th Light Tank Bn. in Europe during World War II. Contact Robert M. Aderson, 518 5th Ave., Manchester, GA 31816.

Anyone who served with Col. Bert Balchorn and knows of his exploits as a pioneering pilot and OSS operative. Contact Col. William Barrett Taylor III, 3209 N. Columbus St., Arlington, VA 22207, or call (703) 536-6908 or fax (703) 536-6970.

Anyone who served with A Co., 8th Cav., 1st Cav. Div. (Airmobile) in An Khe, Vietnam, 1966-67. Contact James Folker, RR 1 Box 27, Mt. Sterling, IA 52573.

WAAFs and officers of the 66th Fighter Wing who staffed the plotting room at Sawston Hall, Cambridgeshire, England, 1942-45. Also, all personnel of the 357th Fighter Wing, Leiston, Airfield, England, 1942-45. Contact Gordon Leonard, 19 Boswell St., Bootle, Merseyside, L20 4RP.

Anyone who served with "Murdoch," 1989-93, flying OH-1s and OH-58s out of Ansbach and Montheth Brooks, Nuremberg, Germany. Contact David L. Graham, P.O. Box D137A, Dayton V.A.M., 4100 W. Third St., Dayton OH 45428.

The pilot who made—or details of—the emergency landing of P-40N on Howland Island in 1943. The 45th Fighter Sqdn, 7th Air Force plane returned to base on Baker Island after repairs. Contact Lewis Dewitt, 29 Fairway Dr., Selinsgrove, PA 17870.

Anyone who served with the 529th Sig. Ops. Co., 1950-1960s. Contact William E. Bader, 1422 Laura St., Carthage, MO 64836-3171.

Anyone who served in Co. A, 291st Engineer Combat Bn. during the Battle of the Bulge. Contact Robert T. Weichert, 1912 W. Indian Head Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32301.

Anyone interested in the World War II exploits of USS Spence. Contact Richard A. Strand, 508A Heritage Village, Southbury, CT 06488.

Members of flying class 52-Dog, Vance Air Force Base. Contact John Dickerson, 977 2425 Dr., Cedarade, CO 81413. Phone (970) 856-3683 or e-mail jedick@co.ds.net.

Anyone aboard the merchant ship Flora McDonald in 1943. Contact C.L. Trahan, 1105 Mercury Ave., Metairie, LA 70003.

Anyone who served with the 924th Engineer Avn. Bn. (SCARWAF) Well Drilling Det. or Co. B, 850th Engineer Avn. Bn. in France, 1954-55. Contact John Keefe, 327 W. 7th St., Mankato, MN 56001.

Members of the 1951 Naval Air Station football team, Atsugi, Japan. Contact James J. Whelan, 1042 Ardilla Place, Chula Vista, CA 91910, or call (619) 656-8186.

Anyone who served on the 11th Coast Art. Mine Planter "Mills" in San Francisco during World War II. Contact Bill Snowman, 1865 Collingswood Road, Upper Arlington, OH 43221-3874.

USN Armed Guards, World War II, for database. Contact Charles A. Lloyd, 5712 Partridge Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609-4126, or call (919) 876-5537.

Crewmembers of B-25 forced to land in Greenland in 1943 for info on the aircraft, which will be salvaged for museum display. Contact Bob Haney, 106 Fox Run, Stearville, NJ 08886.

Anyone stationed at AGC/RS, South Brooklyn, NY, Jan. 1942-Nov. 1943 or who served on USS Rhind (DD404) Nov. 1943-Jan. 1944. Contact John Wells, 20 Van Wyck St., Bladens, NY 14219.

1917 members/graduates of B Co., 2nd Bn., 5th AIT Bde., 118 Infantry/Southeast Asia prep, Ft. Polk, LA. Contact Mike Hodo, 602 Vine St., Doniphan, MO 63935-1469.

Anyone who remembers truck co. hauling four loads of gold from Bologna, Italy, to Rome after the end of the war. Contact Hugh Fleming, 49 Fleming Circle, Hartwell, GA 30643-4241.

Anyone who served on Army hospital ship Louis A. Milne. Contact Ray Lau, 4114 State Route 78 N, Stockton, IL 61085-9766.

D-Day veterans, all branches, for reminiscences for the National D-Day Museum. Contact Charles Farrell, P.O. Box 878, Largo, FL 33779-1678.

Arrival details of 20th Combat Engineer Bn., March 1943 to November 1945. Contact Joseph Owens, 1208 Imperial Palm Dr., Largo, FL 33771.

Anyone who served in the 375th QM Truck Co., Tinian

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high National or Department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Louis Milinazzo, NH, Nat'l M&PA Comm. (1965-67), Nat'l Rehab. Comm. (1967-68), Nat'l For. Rel. (1968-72), Nat'l For. Rel. V. Chmn. (1985-89), Dept. V. Commander (1986-87), Dept. Commander (1987-88), Dept. Rehab. Chmn. (1989-91).

Kenneth L. McAtee, HI, Dept. V. Commander (1962-64), Nat'l Dist. Guests Comm. (1962-64), Nat'l Sec. Council (1963-65), Dept. Commander (1964-65, 87-88), Nat'l M&PA (1965-66), Dept. Civ. Def. Chmn. (1967-68), Nat'l Exec. Comm. (1983-85), Nat'l Mag. Comm. (1983-85).

Herbert J. Geary, Jr., NH, Dept. Adjutant (1988-94), Nat'l Sec. Council (1989-90, 93-94), Nat'l For. Rel. Comm. (1994-98), Dept. Fin. Chmn. (1997-98).

Howard R. Shannon, OK, Nat'l Cemetery Comm. (1973-79), Dept. V. Commander (1974-75), Dept. M&PA Co-Chmn. (1974-75), Dept. Commander (1975-76), Dept. Graves Reg. (1977-78), Dept.

Const. & Bylaws Chmn. (1996-97), Dept. Fin. Chmn. (1994-95), Dept. Fin. Officer (1994-95), Nat'l M&PA Comm. (1995-95).

Raul B. Barreras, PR, Dept. V. Commander (1964-67), Dept. Rehab. Chmn. (1965-71, 75-77, 82-83), Nat'l Dist. Guests (1964-65, 72-73), Nat'l Americanism V. Chmn. (1965-68), NEC Alt. (1967-68, 76-81), NEC (1968-71), Nat'l For. Rel. Comm. Liaison (1968-71), Dept. Commander (1971-72), Dept. Fin. Chmn. (1972-75), Nat'l Sec. V. Chmn. (1972-74), Dept. Blood Donor Chmn. (1973-75), Nat'l For. Rel. V. Chmn. (1974-75, 81-84), Nat'l VA&R (1976-79), Nat'l Rehab (1980-81), Nat'l Counter-Subversive (1981-82), Dept. Int. Affairs Chmn. (1983-84).

Darwin S. Ekey, OH, Nat'l M&PA (1972-74), Nat'l Leg. (1976-79), Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms (1981-83, 92-93), Nat'l Sec. V. Chmn. (1981-82, 92-93), Nat'l Sec. V. Chmn. (1981-83, 85-89), Dept. Fin. Off. (1983-84).

William D. Wiggins, ID, Dept. For. Rel. Chmn. (1997-98), Dept. V. Commander (1997-98), Nat'l Sec. V. Chmn. (1997-98).

William D. Chester, Jr., KY, Nat'l Housing (1953-55), Dept. Jr. Baseball Chmn. (1955), Dept. M&PA Chmn. (1958-59, 68-69), Nat'l M&PA (1958-59), Dept. EdSchol. Chmn. (1961-67), Nat'l Rehab. (1964-65), Dept. Historian (1970-71), Dept. Chaplain (1972-79, 87-89), Nat'l For. Rel. V. Chmn. (1974-75), Nat'l Dist. Guests V. Chmn. (1995-98).

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their Posts.

Life Membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

NAME YEAR POST CITY, STATE
John Garavito (1998) 56 Santa Maria, CA
Edward W. Grover (1998) 82 Londonderry, VT
John B. Weaver (1998) 133 Naples, FL
Richard M. Baker, Harry Hughes, Sidney G. Robinson, Norman G. Wilsey, Martin J. Timmel (1998) 527 Hamburg, NY

Paul R. Hedberg Jr., E.J. Omphs (1998) 137 Capon Bridge, WV

Kevin Barry, Richard Gutierrez, John Johnson, Walter Miller, Daniel O'Connell, Albion Tallman, Arthur Thompson (1997) 55 Brooklyn, NY
Richard Medaska (1998) 226 River Edge, NJ
Edward G. Plock (1998) 306 Middlesex, NJ
Geoffrey Sullivan Jr. (1998) 306 Middlesex, NJ
Vincent Marano (1998) 25 Milltown, NJ
Ellis T. Darley (1998) 84 Oaklyn, NJ
James P. Mulvey (1998) 346 Neptune, NJ
Richard W. Sommers (1998) 522 Prophetstown, IL
Clifton R. Huff (1997) 121 Chester, WV
Mark G. Smith (1997) 136 Salem, OR
Walter H. Cherrick (1998) 344 Anna, IL
Orville C. Hause (1997) 102 Valley Springs, CA
Calvin Rayman (1998) 180 Rosedale, MD
LaVern Groves, Joseph A. Dejesus, Raymond L. Dambrauskas, Donald B. Parry, Kenneth C. Ramsey (1998) 2 Tempe, AZ

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letters to: ID, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Notices are published only at the request of American Legion Service Offices representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Offices.

Navy, USS Helena, 2nd deck div. Carl T. Murdoch needs witnesses to verify that from Aug. 1947 to Dec. 1948 no ear protection was worn or required at battleships at 8-inch battery, near 5-inch gun in during aircraft catapult operations. 1392

Army, 13th Arm Div., 45th Assn Bn. Robert W. Crank needs witnesses to verify that in Feb. 1945 he fell from a barn in Cewe, France. 1394

Navy, 99th NCB Chester H. Moore needs witnesses to verify that in 1944 or 1945 he received mustard gas training on Oahu, HI. 1393

Army, Fort Robinson, Ne Edward F. Hartman needs witnesses to verify that between Jan. and May 1945 he injured his legs in the K-9 kennel area. 1396

Army, 4th Sig Bn., Korea Glenn L. Wilkie needs Edward Thomas to verify that in July 1952 he received gas burns and was sent to a hospital in Japan. 1395



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Continued from page 38

KANSAN WINS CFA ESSAY CONTEST

DAVID Almeling has strong feelings about the American flag and his country. But he doesn't let his emotions get in his way of reasoning.

The 18-year-old recent graduate of Washburn Rural High School in Topeka, Kan., reasons that the proposed flag-protection amendment is needed to unify and protect America's legacy as a people, as well as increase the legitimacy of government by providing what so many have said they desire—passage of **Senate Joint Resolution 40**.

Almeling is the first-place winner of the Citizens Flag Alliance essay contest. "The American Flag Protection Act, A Right of the People... The Right Thing to Do." His winning essay will provide him with a \$15,000 scholarship he'll use at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he plans to study political science and business.



ALMELING

Second-and-third place winners also received scholarship awards and will be flown to Washington along with Almeling this summer to talk with their home state lawmakers about passage of the amendment. Rebekah J. Ryan of Mountain View High School in Mesa, Ariz., won the \$10,000 second prize in the national competition. Ohio's Jon Ludy, Georgetown Jr./Sr. High School, earned \$8,000 for finishing third.

Others in the top 10 included Brady Beecham, Lincoln, Neb.,

fourth; Ralph M. Sturges III, Nashville, Tenn., fifth; Andrew E. Bourne, Sioux City, Iowa, sixth; Mikki Margaret, Cle Elum, Wash., seventh; Noelle Anne Meyer, Roberts, Wis., eighth; Allison Kate Knox, Murdo, S.D., ninth; and Tara L. Lynn, Saginaw, Mich., tenth.

The top three were chosen from among 51 Department winners. Each state CFA awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to its top essayist.

The Citizens Flag Alliance paid out a total of \$108,000 in scholarships to support the education of essay contestants.

He said that he has grown up in an era of American history that has lacked togetherness. It has been a time when individuals have been splitting off and going their own way. There is little unified spirit. Almeling said he hopes that perhaps the flag can provide that unity it has provided previous generations of Americans. □

TOWER OF POWER

LEGIONNAIRES at Post 375 in Mukwonago, Wis., transformed a new village water tower into the most prominent "flagpole" a Legion Post could hope to have. Post members and others in the village contributed the \$10,000 needed for the custom paint job, measuring 15 feet by 20 feet and completed in September 1997. An extra \$4,000 the Water Tower Flag Committee raised helped refurbish a veterans' memorial at the county courthouse. Committee members include George Schmidt, chairman, Charles Weinkauff, Doug Powers and Tom Wolter. The Post home is pictured lower left.



DYING LIGHT

Continued from page 25

for instance, a small study hinted zinc might slow AMD, since the retina has a relatively high level of zinc and elderly people often have diets low in this mineral. While subsequent studies failed to support the assertion, people who sell vitamins and minerals still talk of zinc as an effective treatment.

Also, adopting a healthy diet and staying out of bright sunlight at the age of 65 will have no impact on AMD. Likewise, dietary supplements of anti-oxidant vitamins such as beta carotene, vitamin E and the mineral selenium, have not been proven to retard AMD pathology but—in reasonable amounts—can't hurt.

Scientists are developing a protein that acts as a neuron survival agent, a natural substance that could help photoreceptor cells fight degeneration. "These aren't a cure," says Chader, "but if they can be delivered properly into the affected area, they could hold the line against visual deterioration from AMD."

Gene therapy is also in the works, whereby snippets of genes that have anti-oxidant properties are transplanted into the affected area. "This too could also slow down the progress of the disease," says Chader. □

LOOKING FOR HELP

FOR information on macular degeneration and other eye diseases, and sources for low-vision aids and other assistance, contact:

- Foundation Fighting Blindness, Executive Plaza I, Suite 800, 11350 McCormick Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21031. Or call toll free, (888) 394-3937 or (410) 785-9687 TDD

- The Macular Degeneration Foundation, P.O. Box 9752, San Jose, CA 95157. Or call toll free (888) MDF-EYES.

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Some people make you feel at home. Others make you wish you were.

Captured Images

A small boy went with his father to the Post Office and became curious about the wanted posters on display.

"Those are people who have broken the law the police are trying to catch," his father explained.

"Well," the boy replied, "why didn't the police just keep them when they took those pictures?"

Turf Conscious

A man wrote to the Department of Agriculture to find out how to cope with the crabgrass that was spoiling his lawn. The department responded with a number of suggestions. The man tried them all, but could not eliminate the crabgrass.

Exasperated, he wrote the department again, noting that every method it had suggested had failed. His yard was still riddled with crabgrass, and he needed another suggestion.

He got back a short reply: "We suggest you learn to love it."

Hair's the Deal

When a woman gets a haircut:

Susan: "I love your hair. That's so cute!"

Beth: "Do you think so? You don't think it's too fluffy?"

Susan: "Oh, no! It's perfect for your face. I would love to have a cut like that."

Beth: "But your hair looks so good just the way it is. I wouldn't change it a bit..."

When a man gets a haircut:

Stan: "Haircut?"

Bob: "Yep."

Interest-Free

Old bankers never die, they just lose interest.

Horseplay

A woman walked up behind her husband while he was having his morning coffee and slapped him on the back of the head.

"I found a piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name Jane written on it," she yelled. "You better have an explanation."

"Honey, calm down," the man replied. "I went to the races yesterday and that was the name of the horse I bet on."

Later that evening, she walked up and whacked him again.

"What was that for?" he complained.

"Your horse just called."



"I see besides finding out how old he was, you found out that he's getting crabby in his old age."

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UP TO
13 EEE!**

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| | 7T3-4C6 | WHAT SIZE? | WHAT WIDTH? | HOW MANY? |
|---|---------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| C | Taupe | | | |
| D | Brown | | | |
| E | Black | | | |
| H | Grey | | | |

| D and EEE Widths NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR EEE! | | | | | |
|--|--------|----|--------|----|-------|
| 7 | 7 7/8 | 8 | 8 7/8 | 9 | 9 1/2 |
| 10 | 10 1/2 | 11 | 11 1/2 | 12 | 13 |

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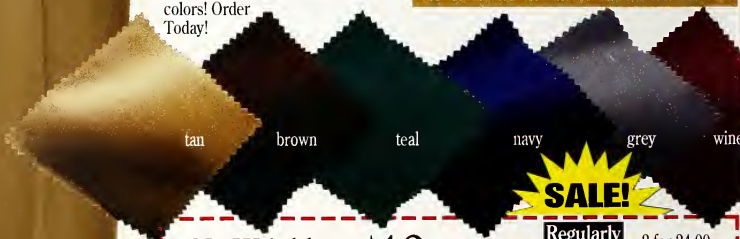
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Black reverses to Brown with a simple flip of the Buckle!
Made in USA of bonded leather. Sizes 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52 54 56 58 60.



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LOOK! ALL WAISTS! EVERY INCH!

7BL-02H

WHAT WAIST? WHAT INSEAM? HOW MANY?

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 30 | 32 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 |
| 42 | 43 | 44 | 46 | 48 | 50 | 52 | 54 | 56 | 58 |
| 60 | | | | | | | | | |

And Look! ALL LEG LENGTHS, All Ready To Wear, All Ready Finished To the Exact Inch!

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

| | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--|--|
| A | WINE | | | |
| B | NAVY | | | |
| C | BROWN | | | |
| E | BLACK (not shown) | | | |
| Q | GREY | | | |
| R | TAN | | | |
| W | TEAL | | | |

☐ Check here for reversible belt. Even sizes only. 30-60, \$6.95 each.

70Y A Black/Brown WHAT SIZE? HOW MANY?

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